

# THE HEART OF THE RIGVEDA

*Panditaraj, Panditaratna, Pandityamithi,  
Shastraratnakara, Nyayavedantavidwan, Mahavyaghra*

MAHULI R GOPALACHARYA, M A

*(Principal, Vijnan Vihar Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya)*



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## DEDICATION

*With profound reverence and deep devotion to Lord Sri Han who indwells  
in my most venerated Master, Jagadguru His Holiness*

### THE LATE SRIMAT SATYADHYANATIRTHA

*the renowned Pontiff of Srimat Uttaradi Mutt, the Sun of my soul, the guiding  
Star of my life, the Master-maker of my mind and the  
Captain-General of my heart*



*With deep veneration and devout faith I also express my great debt of  
gratitude to the highly revered Jagadguru His Holiness*

### SRIMAT SATYAPRAMODATIRTHA

*the present Pontiff of Srimat Uttaradi Mutt, for having most heartily blessed  
me in this literary and philosophical venture of mine*



*Jagadguru His Holiness*  
**THE LATE SRIMAT SATYADHYANATIRTHA**  
*the renowned Pontiff of Srmat Uttarad Mutt*



*Jagadgurur His Holiness*  
**SRIMAT SATYAPRAMODATIRTHA**  
*the present Pontiff of Sri as Uttarak Al*

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## Preface

It is universally claimed by all Vedic seers that the Vedas are an assured avenue to material prosperity and spiritual well-being. They also help us rediscover our past, reorient our present and remodel our future. But they prove a tractless wilderness for one who rushes into it without intellectual equipment and spiritual guidance.

In modern times, events are moving so fast that a man in his own time has to live through several epochs. Most of us have to play the part of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde. Everyone of us feels in his old age that he is a Rip Van Winkle reborn. Empires are collapsing. Political philosophies which were once in vogue are crumbling. Social order is rudely shaken by social earthquakes. Men have a great fancy for novelties. Newfangled ideas are transforming the whole landscape of our lives. Moral values are conspicuous by their absence. Love of man for man is extinct. Man's regard for man is obsolete. His will to serve God and his fellow-beings is completely emasculated by his cupidity.

Against the background of these inescapable hard facts, can we remake our life, reconstruct our society and rebuild our nation? The reply is 'yes'. There is plenty of hope if we fall back upon the Vedas. It is true that the Vedic religion would appear to be a bundle of bombastic absurdities if they are interpreted by misguided or perverted scholars who have no insight, imagination and intuition and to whom the letter is everything and the spirit nothing, only to such people the Vedic words are empty, bloodless forms.

If rightly interpreted and correctly understood, the Vedas take us straight to God through the ivory gate. The sages



who meticulously follow them give us a radiant proof of the sanity and profundity of Vedic philosophy and win the spontaneous suffrages of reasonable men as saints of high order. The Vedas are noted for the breadth of their outlook, clarity of vision and lucidity of presentation. Their prevailing tone and temper is to better human life here and hereafter. Their knowledge definitely enriches human life and ennobles us beyond all limits. Anyone who misinterprets the Vedas and suchlike sacred scriptures must therefore be considered guilty of treason against the Commonwealth of Mankind. Human mind is at liberty to theorise about truth, but it takes a great leap into the dark when it starts substituting theories for truth, fancies for facts, sudden sallies of mind for systems of philosophy, in order to break away from what it calls Tyranny of Tradition. But no sane man may claim the liberty of misconstruction and misrepresentation.

In determining the authenticity of historical events, we invariably follow recorded tradition, in knowing the pedigree of a family, we depend upon unrecorded tradition also. This shows that man cannot be so allergic to tradition without great loss to himself and to society, he cannot be resentful of guidance offered to him by his predecessors in the field. The Vedas, to do justice, compass the length and breadth of human knowledge. They say the last word on the ultimate verities. The teachings of the Vedas touch at all points of life. They can be applied to every side of human existence. They lie open to every man's hand if there is a proper approach. To a man gifted with interest, insight and intuition, the Vedas are a mine of gold ever accessible to mine its gold and make it current gold coin. They are heavily packed with living ideas, precious and powerful. They almost open a paradise to pining souls. Their knowledge has been *far more nutritious than bread and infinitely sweeter than nectar* to all down the ages. The Vedic verses, despite their being highly symbolic, are smooth, sweet and rhythmic, the strains are easily flowing, remarkably refreshing and unde-

nably edifying. The mellifluous muse which creeps in our ears electrifies the mind and has a magic effect upon the whole personality. It is not only not necessary but derogatory to the Vedas if we offer to piece out samples. Let us not study mere words but precious ideas behind them which are dynamic forces. Owing to drawbacks inherent in us, errors appear to float on the surface of this fathomless sea of the Vedas, but if we dive deep we get priceless pearls in plenty.

God is the central thesis of the Vedas. This concept is as lofty as it is immaculate. There is a unique grandeur and majesty about it which distinctly marks it out.

The hope of unalloyed happiness always nestles in the human heart and it finds wings only on some inspiring occasions. Man, however, finds himself at sea of endless troubles. His life happens to be an arid desert. He considers himself destitute and desolate. Why? Because he has no mooring in God who is the Home of Happiness. We know from history and available evidence that those who are anchored in God and eternal truths, say that they are most happy at all times. Their honesty is unimpeachable, their veracity is invulnerable, their character in general is free from all possible stain, no action of theirs shocks our moral sense, none has fallen short of the ideal, and we can find no reasons to distrust them.

The mystic meaning of the Vedas, once assimilated, transports man to lofty table-lands where a soul lives with God in abiding and close communion.

There are two categories of seekers of Truth. Some seek to know how the world was created, others pine for knowing why it was created. Scientists belong to the first category, philosophers to the second. Thinkers, sick of wild speculation, take to spiritual introspection and scathing self-examination to become philosophers. Seasoned philosophers who are able to translate their philosophy into action deserve to be called saints. Perfected saints to whose meditative mind *mantras* and

*suktas* flash without any special effort on their part, in that direction, are called seers. They can pour forth a flood of sweet strains. These great men are free from cant and affectation. Their knowledge enables them to bathe the world in divine love. Their heart is entranced with joy exalted to beatitude. Everything appears to them apparelled in divine love. Pure Vedic knowledge and divine love are the wings with which men can fly to Heaven.

All Vedic bards are mighty prophets and blessed seers. They visualise Truths to find which we toil all our lives only to get lost in confounding confusion and dreary darkness. They therefore see splendour in the grass and glory in the flower. To them the meanest flower that blows can give thoughts too deep for tears. To these people service of humanity is a sweet toil and serving God is ethereal elixir. In truth, they aspire to serve God by serving His children. Vedic seers are optimistic to the core. Transcendental love for God is their crowning attribute. This love unifies and harmonises everything. The faith they have pinned on God is many times more than the faith they have in other things. To them, the world and every part of it, this life and all its responsibilities are radically real. They are not at all phantasmal. This world is too big to pass for a dream.

Seers, by God's grace, are able to know the inmost meaning of the Vedas. The Vedas, be it noted, suggest infinitely more than they convey directly. The elasticity of Sanskrit words works wonders. Thus it can be proved that the mystic meaning underlies all words, sentences, *mantras* and *suktas* of the Vedas. The words and sentences groan under the heavy load of sublime ideas. These *mantras* are essentially fervent prayers to God impregnated with precious thoughts which are priceless gems. The Vedas are the granary of good and glorious ideas. More things are wrought by prayer than the world dreams of. To a Vedic sage in the prayerful and contemplative mood, the earth is crammed with Heaven and every bush is afire with God.

The central and common theme of all the Vedas is God Supreme, who guides and governs us, who engineers all our activities and rewards them. That *Great Beyond* who is beyond, beyond and yet again beyond is the perpetually recurring theme of Vedic seers. He is the very life of their breath. The devoted sage sees this Great Beyond nearest to him—why, in the inmost centre of his being. He sees Him supporting all things from behind, upholding them from beneath, guarding them on both sides, leading them afore and protecting them from above. The Beyond, of His own accord, meets the eye of the devotee and greets him when the latter is hushed in the chambers of his heart allowing intellect to sleep and snore for a short spell. It is at this stage that he enters into the glimmering regions of resplendent Godly Light. Now he is saturated with love for God. From dawn to dusk, day in, day out, he may be absorbed in *Samadhi* or out of it. All is one with him. When he is in yogic trance, he sees God in his own heart, when out of it, he sees Him in the universe and in every part of it. Every living as well as lifeless thing is a *sanctum sanctorum* for him.

This divine love is another name for abundant power, clear insight, amplitude of mind and pure reason in its most exalted state. Man without love for God is a sordid solitary thing. Every man is capable of cultivating genuine love for God. His capability is frequently misused and his love more than not misplaced. Thus man works out his own ruin. Many people are oblivious of their native worth and of their relationship with the Almighty. When their efforts fail they are overwhelmed with a sense of frustration, for they feel utterly helpless. They do not discover that their Father is the Almighty. They, therefore, lead a deplorable life with none to look forward to in times of desperation. Faith in God lifts the smothering weight off their breasts. It unites all human beings in a silken tie of affection. It is a great cementing factor, a unifying force. A godless man does not so much fear to hurt the feelings of other

men since they are strangers to him. That is why, with the spread of godlessness, man's regard and love for man touches the nadir, belligerency increases, global wars threaten to bring almost wholesale destruction, murders become the order of the day, man rushes at another man with unhelmed range, he rejoices in seeing pools of blood staining this sacred land. The so-called religious wars were fought by the godless people who simulated to be religious.

On the contrary, faith in God fraternises all human beings and brings them plenitude of permanent bliss. Abiding joy illumines their brow. Shame and fame are all one to them. A man of faith gets confidence and feels resourceful and easily attains noontide spiritual majesty.

The Vedic bards had an unflinching eye for the true perspective and proportion of things. Soaring imagination and loyal fidelity to facts, explosive emotions and complete mastery over self are found combined in unparalleled union. They see life steadily and see it whole. When they are consumed in fires of passion for God, *mantras* flash to their mind and flow in a flood from their mouth. Blood dances through the veins of Vedic seers in matchlessly luscious music and enables them to be in perfect tune with the Infinite. These venerated souls give a wide berth even to the slightest touch of selfishness or cupidity. The theory that Vedic bards subordinate moral and spiritual considerations to material gains finds no indisputable countenance anywhere in the texts. Although we get a multi-coloured panorama of life between the cradle and the grave, the ultimate mysteries of the supersensuous world are the main concern of Vedic seers. This philosophy is the master-key, the *passé-partout* to unravel the deeply secret teachings of the Vedas and disengage the tangled skein of thoughts contained in some of the baffling *sūktas*. Deciphering the meaning of the Vedas correctly and fully needs a rare gift of divination given to a few. Just as any Tom, Dick and Harry

cannot be a diviner of water, so also any scholar, however great, attempting to probe into the import of the Vedas cannot get the credit of being their faithful interpreter. Given all other equipments, strong faith in God which would act as a dowsing rod, and divine intuition—a spiritual eye for the unseen—are essential.

People commanding outstanding faith in God experience an ineffable joy of elevated thoughts. God is the anchor of their purest thoughts. He is the norm and the nurse, the guide and the guardian of their conscience. Needless to add, strong faith in God helps build character, and inspires discipline.

On the part of students of the Vedas, there must be an irrepres- sible desire to wake up from spiritual slumbers. Here also, Faith is the recurring decimal of all great thinking. This gives the characteristic lift and splendour due to the words of the Sacred Texts.

Sometimes ignorance, sometimes perversions, many times prejudices and allegiance to misinterpretations blind us to the correct meaning of Vedic doxologies. Moral life that evolves out of strong faith is a regimen which checks the fever of self-will and reduces the swollen proportion of our lower self. This brings them closer to the heart of the Vedas.

So too students and teachers of the Vedas must be highly religious. Religion is not merely a sporadic event of history but an essential element of human nature. Religion is obedience to the highest law. It is, be it noted, not a stranger and an obtruder, but a host having home and habitation in the soul. It is not an upstart. It is a human instinct, rather a divine element in human personality, which develops divinity in humans.

This robust religious sense is a reliable lifeboat for the shipwrecked crew. It is a spinal cord in the spiritual body structure of the soul. It puts vigour in palsied limbs. It is the noblest of divine gifts.

There is no man who does not have faith. It is the very

breath of our life. When an atheist explodes faith of some people in some persons and some scriptures with pathetic tenacity, he builds up his own faith in some other persons and some other books with hopeless obstinacy. In these degenerate days, ignoble themes obtain mistaken praise. Religious faith is not baseless belief. It is inner light, a spiritual vision. It is a great power which energizes people at different levels and in different fields. Faith in the eternal order of things is the basis of science. Faith in the eternal ordainer is the basis of religion. It is as clear as noonday light that one cannot reasonably exist without the other. Faith builds a bridge between the domain known and infinite domains unknown. It marches in the vanguard of progress. It is universally found in varying measures in all people at all stages of life. Its presence is palpable in and behind refined life, scientific achievements, profound philosophy, beautiful poetry and ideal humanity.

This planet of ours is a speck of dust floating in illimitable space. Life on it must have a meaning. To find its meaning is meat and drink to all spiritual-minded people. Life attains value through culture. Civilization without culture is a blatant blasphemy. Civilization thrives as long as it receives life-giving forces from culture. Once culture is no more, civilization cannot survive. If we are to survive as civilized beings, we cannot afford to lose culture. It is high time that we revived it. The time is most ripe for cultural renaissance and religious regeneration which can hold cultural crisis and global destruction in abeyance. To have civilization without culture is to purchase it too dearly. Civilization may multiply manners but corrupts the heart. The absence of religious sense would usher in a degeneration of moral values. Vice rampant would hold its sovereign sway. Men would become its willing slaves. Vice sanctions vice and hounds dignity, decorum and integrity down. There are a number of values besides the gains of civilization which are most worth living for. Religion which does not stand on the bedrock

of the existence of Perfect God is as shaky as a mansion built on shifting sands

Law is God, say some, no God at all, say the ignorant, Law is the behest and the will of God, say the wise. All things, great or small, and all vital virtues flow from Him who is the Life's first fountain

Faith in God never allows anyone to sink or swerve. If there were no God, the question who created this world would have no answer. The concept of God is not a distempered dream of deranged mystics. When fortune's mignons bask in plenty's sunshine, they feel no need for God and religion. But God-instinct is not exotic, it is indigenous. People who want to follow pleasure's flowery path damn religion, laden as it is with injunctions and inhibitions. As a matter of fact, religion regales our mind and heightens our heart's satisfaction. The idea of God gladdens us even in the saddest circumstances.

When God and religion are thrown overboard or revered only nominally, man sinks in sin lost to shame. Both teachers and the taught, rulers and the ruled would follow pollution's path without the qualms of conscience. That is why, in this Godless age, even our proudest achievements can be triggered off to precipitate the total extinction of human race and animal life. In very truth, true religion sincerely and meaningfully followed by people of sterling worth is the bulwark of all progress and prosperity. History proves that whenever genuine religion reaches its zenith, human happiness also reaches its meridian, whenever that is sham, showy and shabby, it reaches its nadir.

Empires have mouldered from the face of the earth. Several tongues have rotted away beyond recognition. Many works of great art are consigned to the limbo of forgotten things. But the Vedas and Sanskrit language have remained much the same through millenniums. There must be some great undying merit in them which does not allow them to die. It is high time that we allowed our brains to browse on them. Let us not break



our heads and rack our brains for worthless odds and ends of life  
 Let us not trudge our weary way to frustration and disappointment

The Vedas contain visions of thousand things As we study them we are simply entraptured As a matter of fact, there is no turgidity or tumidity about the style The language, in general, is as simple as it can be Vedic study will not dull our mind and clog the wings of our fancy as some people aver On the contrary, it redeems us from all physical diseases and mental maladies It helps us get out of the vortex of vice, tempest of vexing troubles and fictitious flames of false anxiety Aglow with universal love as the hearts of Vedic seers are, they kindle the same in our hearts too No sooner the Vedic Muse waves her wooing waves over our ears than we forget all our sorrows and privations We are swept away by the easy rhymes' harmonious flow Vedas inspire great virtues in us which arm us against all insults and steel us against all fear Never do they allow any man to plunge into dissipation or distress

In fine, let us worship at the altar of the Vedas Let us not be lured away from these luscious lyrical outpourings into noisy nonsense put into florid language Let us not prostitute the Vedic Muse, or discredit it without reasonable grounds Let us never, never bid adieu to Her who is the mighty mother of all cultures and the first fount of all philosophies

In this Vedic chrestomathy, I have drawn *Mantras* on all the *Mandalas* Any lover of learning who works his way carefully through the pages of this book can get a clear idea of Vedic philosophy in all its beauty, gravity and solemnity This selection is calculated to be a brief epitome of the *Rigveda*, the earliest, nonetheless, the most important monument of human beings

I would be the last person to claim any originality for myself or for my book I am quite aware that I have been a notorious borrower from my very birth I have received infinitely more than I have been able to return I owe the form and substance

of this work to a host of great writers, Indologists, philosophers and saints to whom I cannot severally express my gratitude. I can once for all clinch the issue by disowning any credit or merit, should it be there, which heightens its beauty, worth and usefulness, I herewith return it to all from whom I have borrowed *sciemment and sans le savoir*, knowingly or unknowingly.

No man would be more painfully aware than myself of some serious drawbacks from which this book suffers. It was my duty first and foremost to add explanatory notes for amplifying the import of the *suktas* and to justify my interpretations on the ground of relevant references, internal and external. But this I could not do lest the volume increase enormously beyond the small compass of this book. I deem, however, my labours more than rewarded if this work reorients a fresh interest among lovers of Rigveda in its close study. For all errors that might have crept here, I crave the indulgence of sage readers.

Precision in language is of paramount importance, particularly where publications of this type are concerned. And who could be more fortunate than I in being able to indent and freely draw on the time and indulgence of my erstwhile esteemed Professor, Shri R. S. Aiyar, Emeritus Professor of English, whose profound knowledge has earned him mouthful praise from eminent persons no less than John Galsworthy, the Rt. Hon'ble V. S. Srinivasa Sastry and others. I was exceptionally lucky to secure his sympathetic guidance, active co-operation and valuable suggestions in regard to the niceties and the nuances of English by which alone I could chisel and chasten the language into a form acceptable to this savant, steeped in its study for seven decades and over. I have, with his kind permission, bodily incorporated his thoughtful observations on 'Symbolism and Myth in the Veda' in the IX Section of my Introduction where he has briefly and beautifully surveyed the relevant English literature in comparison with vedic mysticism. Needless to

willingly and dutifully attended to these details. I should also like to record my feelings of gratefulness to Shri R.V. Murthy, the well-known journalist of Bombay, for the valuable suggestions he made in regard to this preface.

Bombay  
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Mahmud R. Gopalatharya

# Introduction

## I THE VEDAS AND THEIR SUBLIMITY

The Vedas are the glorious legacy of the Aryans, they are the pride of our country and her prized treasure. They are so called because they are inexhaustible repositories of spiritual wisdom. They are by far the oldest specimens of literature. All other ancient literatures of the world, even the most ancient of them, directly or indirectly presuppose and indicate their awareness of the Vedas. The *Avesta*, is, very probably, but a free paraphrase of several hymns of the Vedas.

Considered as poetry, they are marked by matchless beauty of thought and style, by a superb simplicity and unparalleled perspicuity, still, they suggest a world of deeper meaning which any mystic-minded man, with systematic effort, can probe into. Voltaire in his writings repeatedly praised the ancient wisdom of the Brahmanas which he thought he had discovered in the Yajurveda brought to his notice about the middle of 18th century. It is said with a great amount of truth that he waxed very eloquent whenever he referred to the Vedas.

The Vedas have been for millenniums considered to be the supreme authority on Paramatattvas and the duties of man towards God and his fellow creatures. The Srutis "वेदा ह्येवं वेदयन्ति" "नावेदविन्मनुते त बृहन्तम्" and the Smrutis like "वेदोऽखिलो धर्ममूलम्" are but some of the scores of passages that bear it out. Philosophers down the ages, in India, holding widely divergent views on other things are unanimous on the point

upon as the one and only prophet born. Politically and economically dominating countries are always slow to realize the glory of civilizations of countries under their thumb. Besides the religious prepossession, there is a racial one too. Westerners who appropriate to themselves the monopoly of civilization and culture think it below their dignity to acknowledge the superiority of the older civilizations of countries inhabited by other races. Some of them go to the length of suggesting that with Christ true religion was born.

This attitude of theirs is absolutely untenable in face of the universal consensus among historians that Greece and Rome had their own civilization. Anaximenes, Anaximander, Pythagoras, Heraclitus, Parmenides, Empedocles, Anaxagoras, Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle, all of them reputed thinkers, flourished long, long before Christ. Their works are considered to be the crown of cultural evolution. Socrates, who was the embodiment of true culture, was not a product of Christian influence or Church discipline. He showed the worth of human life, knowledge and virtue, to the Western world long before Christ.

Thus, the truth is that the Europeans on account of these obsessions do not at all know the charm of deciphering "the dark utterances" of the earliest poets of India and of discovering many a time behind them the wealth of meaning. That meaning, which seems so dark at first, becomes after repeated and close study clearer and clearer, until the import of the poet goes home to our heart, sinks deep and transfigures our personality. Until and unless we dedicate our life to the study of the Vedas, bringing an open mind to the task of interpretation, and try to understand its canons by reverently sitting at the feet of competent gurus, we have no hope of getting at the heart of the Vedas. It cannot at all be denied that several European scholars made the study of the Vedas their life-task. But few, very few, could keep an open mind, while none of them were initiated

into the Vedic studies by competent gurus. The reason is not far to seek. Profound scholars of the Vedas in India were, as a rule, orthodox and conservative. They, without exception, believed that the wisdom enshrined in the Vedas is esoteric and should not be imparted to all and sundry. Traditionally it could, in keeping with the rules and restrictions for the various orders and castes, be disclosed only to the chosen few. Naturally, Western scholars had no access to pandits of sterling ability. The old Brahmins were not people to fall an easy prey to the lure of money, honour and prestige. So foreigners had to be satisfied with being taught by immature pandits and neophytes, who could not impart to their enthusiastic students anything more than the superficial meaning. It is not strange then that Western scholars who did not expect of the Vedas anything more, flattered themselves that they had got to their very core. It should, however, be conceded by any Indian pandit that they have spared no pains to study the Vedas. The story of their tremendous and indefatigable labour is a fascinating chapter in the history of Vedic thought. Had they a little more patience, a shade more of humility, less of historical fervour and more of spiritual yearning, and had the Indian scholars, on the other hand, been less conservative and more zealous to spread the Light of the East far and wide, Indology would have moved in an altogether different groove. Another reason that gave a fillip to the superficial character of European Vedic scholarship is the liturgical interpretation of the Vedas by the reputed Indian scholiast, the great Sayana.

### III SAYANA'S COMMENTARY ITS VALUE AND LIMITATIONS

To do justice to Sayana, we must bear in mind, whether or not we agree with his interpretation, that he was a very profound scholar. But for his Commentary the vocabulary of the Vedas would have been a sealed book to us. His indeed was the very

first Commentary on all the Vedas. A phenomenal achievement, which cannot be too highly praised from one point of view. But no man, at all spiritually inclined, who holds the Vedas in high veneration can rest satisfied with Sayana's exegesis. Max Muller says "It is well known to those who have followed my literary publications that I never entertained any exaggerated opinion as to the value of the traditional interpretation of the Veda, handed down in the theological school of India, and preserved to us in the great Commentary of Sayana. More than twenty years ago, when it required more courage to speak out than now, I expressed my opinion on that subject in no ambiguous language, and was blamed for it by some of those who now speak of Sayana as a mere drag in the progress of Vedic scholarship." But the great scholar takes care to add "A drag, however, is sometimes more conducive to the safe advancement of learning than a whip, and those who recollect the history of Vedic scholarship during the last five and twenty years, know best that, with all its faults and weaknesses, Sayana's Commentary was a *sine qua non* for a scholarlike study of the R̥gveda. I do not wonder that others who have more recently entered on that study are inclined to speak disparagingly of the scholastic interpretations of Sayana. They hardly know how much we all owe to his guidance in effecting our first entrance into this fortress of Vedic language and Vedic religion, and how much even they, without being aware of it, are indebted to that Indian Eustathius." Then Max Muller gives his considered opinion on Sayana. "I do not withdraw an opinion which I expressed many years ago, and for which I was much blamed at the time, that Sayana in many cases teaches us how the Veda ought not to be, rather than how it ought to be, understood." Still, he pays the well-deserved meed of praise to Sayana. Says the learned scholar<sup>1</sup> "But for all that, who does not know how

<sup>1</sup> R̥gveda Samhita *The Sacred Hymns of the Brahmanas* (first published in 1869)

much assistance may be derived from a first translation, even though it is imperfect, nay, how often the very mistakes of our predecessors help us in finding the right track? If we can now walk without Sayana, we ought to bear in mind that five and twenty years ago, we could not have made even our first steps, we could never, at least, have gained a firm footing, without his leading strings. If, therefore, we can now see further than he could, let us not forget that we are standing on his shoulders." "Nevertheless, if Sayana's work has been a key turned with double lock on the inner sense of the Veda, it is yet indispensable for opening the antechambers of Vedic learning. All the vast labour of European erudition has not been able to replace its utility. At every step we are obliged to differ from it, but at every step we are obliged to use it. It is a necessary spring-board, or a stair that we have to use for entrance, though we must leave it behind if we wish to pass forwards into the penetralia."

All the same it is true to say that Sayana has his own drawbacks. It is well said, "Sayana in many cases teaches us how the Veda ought not to be, rather than how it ought to be understood."

Many times it so happens that though we know the meanings of words separately we are quite unable to give a satisfactory interpretation of the sentence as a whole—a common experience of those who have worked in the field. Max Müller frankly and modestly admits "It is a mere contribution towards a better understanding of the Vedic hymns, and though I hope it may give in the main a right rendering of the sense of the Vedic poets, I feel convinced that on many points my translation is liable to correction, and will sooner or later be replaced by a more satisfactory one."

It is the ritualistic conception that pervades, that is the persistent note in which Sayana loses himself. In the formula of philosophic schools, the hymns, even while standing as a supreme autho-



city for knowledge, are yet principally and fundamentally concerned with the Karmakanda, with works,—and by works was understood, pre-eminently the ritualistic observance of the Vedic sacrifices. Sayana labours always in the light of this idea. Into this mould he pours the language of the Veda, turning the mass of its characteristic words into the ritualistic significances,—food, priest, giver, wealth, praise, prayer, rite, sacrifice.

It is the most egoistic and materialistic objects that are proposed as the aim of the sacrifice, possessions, strength, power, children, servants, gold, horses, cows, victory, the slaughter and the plunder of enemies, the destruction of rival and malevolent critics. As one reads and finds hymn after hymn interpreted in this sense, one begins to understand the apparent inconsistency in the attitude of the Gita, which, regarding always the Veda as divine knowledge, censures severely the champions of an exclusive Vedism, all whose flowery teachings were devoted solely to material wealth, power and enjoyment.

From this it stands out that the final and authoritative binding of the Veda to the lowest of all its possible senses has been the most unfortunate result of Sayana's commentary. The dominance of the ritualistic interpretation had already deprived India of the living use of its greatest Scripture and of the true clue to the entire sense of the Upanishads. Sayana's Commentary put a seal of finality on the old misunderstanding which could not be broken for centuries. And its suggestions, when another civilization discovered and set itself to study the Veda, became in the European mind the parent of fresh errors.

Max Muller adds "It is difficult to explain to those who have not themselves worked at the Veda, how it is that, though we may understand almost every word, yet we find it so difficult to lay hold of a whole chain of connected thought, and to discover expressions that will not throw a wrong shade on the original features of the ancient words of the Veda. There are, as all Vedic scholars know, whole verses which as yet yield no

sense whatever. There are words the meaning of which we can only guess. Here, no doubt, a continued study will remove some of our difficulties and many a passage that is now dark, will receive light hereafter from a happy combination."

#### IV INFLUENCE OF THE VEDAS ON INDIA'S SPIRITUAL THOUGHT

Most of the philosophies of India are saturated with Vedic thought and idiom. The Six Systems of Philosophy claim to be based on the Vedas, especially, the *Mīmāṃsakas*, Jaimini (the author of *Mīmāṃsa Sūtras*), Śabara (the author of the *Bhāṣya* on the *Sūtras*), Kumārila, Prabhakara, Muraṇi Miśra and the reputed commentators, were most uncompromising followers of the Vedas. Bhagavan Vyasa (the author of the *Brahma Sūtras*) and about two dozen intellectual giants who wrote *Bhāṣyas* on them are strict followers of the Vedas in form and spirit, for all that their interpretations are gulfs apart on certain points and doctrines,—each philosopher trying to substantiate his point by profusely drawing on the Vedas. For instance, let alone others, the five great Āchāryas, who command the respect of millions, and hold sometimes radically different views, support their theses at every turn by reference to the Vedas. Śaṅkara, Rāmānuja, Madhwa, Nimbarka and Vallabha, have founded on the strength of the Vedas their respective schools of Advaita, Viśiṣṭadvaita, Dvaita, Dvaitadvaita and Suddhadvaita. It is intriguing to note that both proponents and opponents not only base their philosophies on the firm foundation of the Vedas but also build systems, brick by brick, layer by layer, mainly with citations from the Vedas. Such is the powerful influence of the Vedas. The very word 'Veda' commands no end of reverence. The Veda cited as authority by a philosophical or theological disputant absolutely silences and mystifies his opponent. The heterodox philosophers are severally and collectively denounced and exploded by the orthodox ones. There are hundreds of

Puranas, all claiming to interpret the esoteric philosophy of the Vedas. Most notably the eighteen Maha Puranas and as many Upa Puranas of Bhagavan Vyasa, refer in unmistakable terms to their supreme authoritativeness, proclaiming in season and out of season their absolute allegiance to the Vedas. All the *Grihya Sutras*, *Dharma Sutras* and *Kalpa Sutras* faithfully reproduce their meaning. The numerous *Sutritis* so rigorously follow the *Sritis* that Kalidasa, himself no philosopher, says “*श्रुतेरिषाचै स्मृतिरम्बगच्छत्*” Last but not least, all commentators, glossators, scholasts, interpreters, investigators, annotators and writers of digests, steer by the lodestar of the Vedas. Any book, however great, minus the Vedas, is a philosophical cipher, *per contra*, it gains in value and influence to the extent it is buttressed and fortified by the Vedas. Arguments are considered to be specious if they run counter to their spirit and are summarily brushed aside as *sushkatarka* or mere sophistry and dialecticians are warned not to indulge in it. This shows how ancient Indians not only thought but also felt in Vedic terms.

## V RIGVEDIC POETRY

Poets are born, though through time and toil the inborn gift gains in depth and range of thought along with mastery of style and diction. The Vedic bards, however, surprised by moments of trance, by spells of afflatus, chanted the mantras that broke from them. They easily rise to sublime heights, wherefrom they view things in clear light and proper perspective. They never labour for style and diction, which come to them unsought. Tradition has it that the Vedic seers when absorbed in meditation envisioned great truths which flashed in their minds only by divine grace. Hence were they called *Rishis*, i.e., poets endowed with divine inspiration, with vision of universal truths, poets to whom the finest poetry came in perfect and lovely form. All their expression, every word and every sentence, is highly mystic

अप्यात्मम् । ॥ एष सर्वोऽपि मन्त्रबाह्यपराशिवेवं विद्या विभक्तः । तद्वयं सति यदा अभ्युदयलक्षणो धर्मोऽभिप्रेयते तदा याज्ञं पुष्पं, देवतं फलम् । यदा पुनः निःश्रेयसलक्षणो धर्मोऽभिप्रेयते तदा उभे एव याज्ञदेवते पुष्पत्वमेव विभक्तः । देवतोहि याज्ञमन्तर्भूतमेव तदर्थत्वान्, अनो न पुष्पगुच्यते ।

Knowledge of sacrifice is the flower, of which the knowledge of divine beings may be considered as the fruit. The knowledge of divine beings in its turn is the flower whose fruit is universal knowledge of the Self. This is what is established by the whole Veda. If the dharma leading to material prosperity is performed, the knowledge of gods is its reward. If on the other hand the dharma leading to spiritual beatitude is practised, then both the *yajnika* and *dairika* become the flower; the *dairika*, which includes in itself the *yajnika* becomes the flower and the *Adhyatmika* the fruit."

मतो हि अप्यात्माधिदेवताधियज्ञाभिधायिना मन्त्राणामर्थाः परिज्ञायन्ते । ते च परिज्ञाताः सन्तः पुण्यस्य उत्तमाय श्रेयसे चरन्ति ।

## VI THE ESOTERIC MEANING OF MANTRAS

In this connection the observations of Sri Aurobindo are worth noting:

"The Vedas are truly epitomes of knowledge gained and bequeathed by the *Rishis* of old who were not bards or poets of common clay but inspired singers who poured out in living vocables the highest experiences and realisations of the soul. They were seers, leaders of men, who had attained the high water-mark of a particular culture and civilization, and these hymnal records are just the finger-prints and sign posts of their spiritual and religious endeavour. The mantras of the Vedas are not of the usual human origin, their contents bespeak the presence of the Word beyond words. Their language is

antique, but behind that antiquity lies the story of human language

"The Vedas record the workings and manifestations of this Higher Knowledge, there may be much else besides, but that is secondary. They are pre-eminently scriptures of the Knowledge and Practice of the Art of God and Science of the Soul"

Sri Aurobindo has expounded his method of approach and the lines of enquiry on which he proceeded with a summary of his conclusions in a series of articles in the *Arya* under the title of *The Secret of India*. Mr M. P. Pandit, a staunch devotee of Sri Aurobindo, writes in his book, *Mystic Approach to the Veda and the Upanishad*

' This tradition of the spiritual import of the Vedas must have been current for a long time till it was eclipsed by the ritualist tradition receiving tremendous impetus and prestige at the hands of the Vedists, the Mimamsakas, and lastly, of Sayana in the 14th Century A.D. Even as late as the 13th Century—a century before Sayana—Ananda Tirtha, known as Madhvacharya, revived the tradition by writing commentary on the first 40 sukta of the *Rik Samhita*. Even after Sayana, Sri Raghavendra Swami wrote the *Mantrarthia-Manjari*, explaining and amplifying the Bhashya of Madhvacharya, and he has quoted therein an ancient Puranic text which says that the Vedas have three meanings, trayorthahi Sarsa gidesu

' The Mantras, the Riks themselves, we must note, were not poetical compositions, written to record experiences, objective or subjective, in the manner of our poets and authors. They were not minted in the mart of mind. They had a deeper and other origin. The Rshis themselves disclaimed authorship of the Riks. They were not creators but seers who perceived the truth of the Mantra. That is why Sayana observes,

“न हि वेदस्य कर्तार द्रष्टार सर्व एव हि”  
 ‘they are no creators of the Veda but seers’

‘The Rishis variously refer to the Inner Ocean, *Antah Samudra* or the Supreme Ether, *Paramam Vyoma*, from whence they received the Riks. That is the explanation of the traditional ascription of non-human, *apaurusheya* character to the Mantras

“If we approach the Riks with an understanding of this their background with a readiness to get into the spirit of the age and proceed on the lines chalked out by Sri Aurobindo, the hymns do not appear any longer to be the simple folk-songs or abject supplications of a primitive, barbarian people they are fancied and made out to be. Instead, they reveal their true character of being the indices, the charts of the spiritual adventure of highly developed men who had pioneered into the realm of the Unknown

“The Veda is a fitting commemoration of the supreme spiritual effort that was the high note of Vedic Civilization. It forms the Prologue to the eternal Drama of endless Acts that is being enacted on the hallowed soil, *Punyabhumi*, of India ever since”

## VII THE THREEFOLD MEANING OF MANTRAS

That all the Vedic Suktas can bear three interpretations can be observed by any one who carefully studies them. For example The first appearance of the bright Dawn in the Eastern sky at the end of Night is hailed in rapturous strains. Here Ushas means (1) Dawn (2) The Deity Ushas (3) the Dawn of Knowledge. The whole description, with all its picturesqueness, can be applied to all the three. Some *mantras* of *Ushas Sukta* translated into English by Prof Macdonell run thus

"This light has come, of all the lights the fairest,  
The brilliant brightness has been born, far-shining  
Urged onward for God Savitar's uprising,  
Night now has yielded up her place to Morning  
The Sisters' pathway is the same unending,  
Taught by the Gods, alternatively they tread it  
Fair-shaped, of different forms and yet one-munded,  
Night and Morning clash not, nor do they linger

"Bright leader of glad sounds, she shines effulgent,  
Widely she has unclosed for us her portals,  
*Arousing all the world, she shows her riches,*  
Dawn has awakened every living creature

"There Heaven's Daughter has appeared before us,  
The Maiden flushing in her brilliant garments,  
Thou Sovereign lady of all earthly treasure,  
Auspicious Dawn, flush here today upon us

"In the sky's framework she has shone with splendour,  
The Goddess has cast off the robe of darkness  
Wakening up the world with ruddy horses,  
Upon her well-yoked chariot Dawn is coming

"Bringing upon it many bounteous blessings,  
Brightly shining she spreads her brilliant lustre,  
Last of the countless mornings that have gone by,  
First of bright morns to come has Dawn arisen  
"Arise! the breath, the life again has reached us,  
Darkness has gone away and light is coming,  
She leaves the pathway for the sun to travel,  
We have arrived where men prolong existence "

Though this free translation by Professor Macdonell of some

of the beautiful Mantras of *Ushas Sukta* is marked by grace and ✓ rhythm, it obviously misses the deeper spiritual meaning

The Vedic seers were governed by a powerfully symbolic way of utterance and an intuitive vision of things. The reign of dry intellect had not set in, so Nature got its mission fulfilled by means other than that. The Vedic bards had a natural and more intimate awareness of the inner world than is possible for us in this prosaically intellectual age. They did not halt with appearances. They straightway recognised that all life was instinct with and overshadowed by something behind it. The inner was hidden by the outer, and the higher was screened by the lower. They saw that the springs of life are controlled from behind and above it. They also perceived a definite rhythm of order in all the movements of Nature and looked for the Law that underlay it.

Even as *Ushas* has to be taken at once in its three different senses, *Soma* must be understood in its four: (1) the *soma* plant (2) *Soma devata* (3) the Creator (derived from the word *su*=to produce), and (4) the *chittavrittis* like *Bhakti*, *Jnana* etc. which transport a devotee into rapture, inebriate him with divine inspiration, and all of them are called *soma*. *Somarasa* is *bhaktirasa* and *Jnanarasa*. When the intoxicant *soma* juice is drunk man is not aware of his body, his senses, his prestige and honour. That egoity is suppressed for some time under the influence of the intoxicating drink. In the same way the egoistic feelings of *ahanta* and *mamata* completely vanish when a devotee is possessed by *bhaktirasa* or *jnanarasa*. Only the blessed few taste of it. It is now quite evident that when *soma* is eulogized, *bhaktirasa* is mainly extolled, and the *soma* plant is only secondarily praised. The following mantras of *Soma Sukta* make the meaning of *soma* still more clear.

स॒त्येनो॒त्त॒मि॒ता॒ मृ॒मिः॒ स॒र्ये॒णो॒त्त॒मि॒ता॒ द्यौः॒

ऋ॒तेना॑दि॒त्यास्ति॑ष्ठन्ति॒ दि॒वि सो॒मो॒ अ॒वि॑ श्रितः ॥१॥



सोमेनादित्या बलिनः सोमेन पृथिवी मही  
 अयो नक्षत्राणामेपामुपस्ये सोम आर्हितः ॥२॥  
 सोमं मन्यते पशिवान् यत् संपिपंत्योर्षधिम्  
 सोमं यं ब्रह्मणो विदुर्नतस्याश्नाति कश्चन ॥३॥  
 आच्छद्विधानैर्गुपितो बार्हि तैः सोम रक्षितः  
 ग्राणामिच्छुष्वन् तिष्ठसि न ते अश्नाति पार्थिवः ॥४॥  
 यत् त्वा देव प्रपियन्ति तत् आ प्यायसे पुनः  
 वायुः सोमस्य रक्षिता समानां मास आकृतिः ॥५॥

म. १०-८५ वृ

For the convenience of the readers I give below the translation of these five mantras by Wilson and Griffith respectively.

#### WILSON

- (1) Earth is upheld by truth; heaven is upheld by the sun, the Adityas are supported by sacrifice, Soma is supreme in heaven.
- (2) By Soma the Adityas are strong; by Soma the Earth is great; Soma is stationed in the vicinity of these Naksatras.
- (3) He who has drunk thinks that the herb which men crush is the Soma, (but) that which the Brahmans know to be soma, of that no one partakes.
- (4) Concealed by means of coverings, protected by the Barhats, O Soma, thou abidest listening to the grinding-stones, no terrestrial being partakes of thee.
- (5) When, O God, they quaff thee, then dost thou renew thyself again; Vayu is the guardian of Soma, the maker of years and months.

GRIFFITH:

- (1) Truth is the base that bears the earth; by Surya are the heavens sustained. By Law the Adityas stand secure, and Soma holds his place in heaven.
- (2) By Soma are the Adityas strong, by Soma mighty is the Earth. Thus Soma in the midst of all these constellations hath his place.
- (3) One thinks when they have brayed the plant, that he hath drunk the Soma's juice; of him who Brahmanas truly know as Soma no one ever tastes.
- (4) Soma, secured by sheltering rules, guarded by Hymns in Brihan, Thou standest listening to the stones; none tastes of thee who dwells on earth.
- (5) When they begin to drink thee, then, O God, thou swell-est out again.

Vayu is Soma's guardian God. The Moon is that which shapes the years.

The mantras are better explained thus:

- (1) The Earth is caused to be upheld by Truth; the firmament is made to be propped up by the Sun; divine beings are in high heavens by (the rigorous observance of) the Laws of Piety. Soma (the Creator) rules over all.
- (2) The divine beings are powerful by the grace of the Creator; the vast earth has come into being at His will; He indwells all the stars.

NOTE: सम्भ with उद् = to uphold. If it means merely 'upheld' उत्तम्या would have been sufficient. उत्तमिना is the past passive participle of the causal base of सम्भ with उद्.

It means that someone causes *Satya* to uphold the Earth. Moral values do not by themselves exert their influence.

over human beings God, our Creator, has great regard for them and rewards those that live them and punishes those that violate them. So it is clear that, here, Satya stands for Moral Laws. God, our Moral Governor, upholds this universe through the Moral Laws. The sun is the centre of the Solar System. He is responsible for propping up all planets that enter into his system. But he by himself is unable to support it. He himself draws strength from the Creator, and minus that strength does not function. Divine beings are assigned their places in Heaven by God, who takes into account the eternal Law they abide by. In this way it is that Soma rules over all, controlling all, at every stage of their existence. Since Soma is the Maker of all, divine beings are powerful by His Grace. The vast earth has come into existence at His will. Stars stay in their places, because Soma stands in them holding them where they are. So Soma is God. Devotion to Him is also called Soma. Ignorant people think that they have drunk Soma if they crush the creeper. Soma whom seers know, none of these can taste. Thus Soma is kept away from our view by rituals that lude Him. But the devotees of the Supreme guard the Knowledge of Him against decay. The seer says to the soma creeper "stay here listening to the noise created by the grinding stones. No human being will think of tasting Thee", and so does he to the *yajumana* too, presently addressing Soma, The Supreme One, he says "no ordinary earthly being can taste of Thee. If once he tastes of Thee Thou appearest to him in Thy real glory". The Knowledge of God (Soma) reveals Him to us in all His native glory. Vayu is the custodian of that Knowledge of God who is the *Maker of years (seasons), months and days*.

- (1) Those sacrificers and officiating priests wrongly think that they have drunk the Soma because they have crushed the *soma lata*. That Soma whom the wise seers know, none of these tasted.

- (4) (The seer says to Soma) "Thou art veiled from our Knowledge by the ritualistic formulary screening Thee from us, carefully guarded Thou art, however, by Thy devotees", he says (to the ritualist) "You are simply hearing the sound of grinding stones", (to Soma) again he says "an earthly being cannot taste of Thee"
- (5) "O Lord, when they drink i.e. taste Thee with rapture Thou dost with increasing brightness unveil Thy glory to them" Vayu is the guardian (of this Knowledge) of Soma who is the Maker of years and months

### VIII THE PROBLEM OF TRANSLATION

One who ventures on rendering the Veda into another language would do well to reach down and bring to light the deeper spiritual meaning of each *mantra*, leaving aside the obvious ritualistic and secular sense. Remembering that at the moment when the chant found utterance through inner compulsion, the chanter must have been in a state of mystic exaltation, the translator too, after long meditation of its esoteric meanings, should seek to ascend and re-capture, as best he might, the profound thought of the *mantra* that has lived down the ages. No easy task. While the Veda, for the most part, as has already been pointed out, is so worded as to voice ostensibly the prayer of the common man for worldly success and prosperity, its veiled expression is meant to illuminate and energize the spiritual aspirant on the higher plane. At every turn the outer crust has to be broken, so can we feel the thrill of hymns addressing God in the spiritual sublime of human utterance, pouring forth the soul's yearning for Beatitude and the Life of life. What Pindar said of his own poetry is true of the Veda.

\* In the quiver

Under my elbow are many swift arrows

That speak to the wise, but for the crowd  
They need interpreters" <sup>1</sup>

The translator of the Veda must be guided by the same canon that Pope lays down for the critic

"A perfect Judge will read each work of wit  
With the same spirit that its author writ" <sup>1</sup>

Here is a cue, perhaps also a clue, to the reader and translator. The meaning attached to words like *vrishabha*, *apa*, *go*, *ghrita*, *samīd*, *samudra*, *hiranya*, and other words must be in the same high key as in the mind of the primal singer of a *sukta*. If not, it would be plunging the verse into bathos and grotesquerie. Witness Wilson's reading of *avakraśhinam vrishabham* (VIII-1-2) "a bull rushing down on his foes", when with some insight he could have separated the two phrases and given us "who chastises sinners, who showers bounties on His devotees". In the same verse, he who runs could see the famous similitude of the earth as the embodiment of inexhaustible forbearance, but not Griffith, who must have 'bounteous like a cow'. Again, with a little imagination he might have avoided taking *chayavati pra bhuma* (in IV-17-5) in the not very edifying sense "who alone casts down the many", or 'who alone overthrows the world of creatures', and given us the true meaning "the only one who can humble the haughty". Likewise, it makes no small difference whether one understands by *surudhah* (in IV-23-8) 'powers' or merely 'waters' with Wilson, or 'food that strengthens', with Griffith. A little obtuseness of this sort can stultify the high import of a *mantra*. The Veda is a challenge to interpretative scholarship, and the unriddling of a *mantra* needs a degree of insight. Consider, for instance, VII-23-4. What a barren

<sup>1</sup> Quoted by Sir Maurice Bowra in his Presidential Address to the Birmingham M.A. and Institute (1950)

sense emerges from the rendering "Like barren cows swelled the waters the singers sought the holy rite"<sup>1</sup> *Apa* surely is sharply set against *ritam* and means something akin to "futile rites" (multiplying like barren cows)

Glance a moment at that word *ghritam*. In IV-58-2 the sage says, "Let us chant the name of the Self-Luminous Lord", not "Let us celebrate the name *Ghrīta*",—which is absurd—and in the phrase *panibhir guhyamanam*, the first line of IV-58-4 does not mean, "the *ghī* concealed by the Panis" but "the Light of Truth enveloped in darkness" To take *ghritam* and *payas* in their physical sense (in IX-74-4)—"Full of sap the butter and milk  $\equiv$  milked from heaven" (Wilson)—is to shy away from the soul of a noble verse and debase it into sheer gibberish "Bless thee, Bottom, thou art translated!" Surely the sage declares here that "Akasa is made to yield effulgent Wisdom, Wisdom that is the true nectar"

No word must be given a meaning out of accord with that of the *mantra* and the *sūkta* as a whole—the single vocable being a vital part of a living tissue Mark what a lesion can result from violence even to the individual components of a verse Extant translations teem with such arbitrary handling of Vedic diction It is instructive to glance at one or two renderings For *sushimasturaya  $\equiv$  gavyuh* (in IV-23-10) Wilson gives us "the strength of *Rita* is (developed) with speed, and is desirous of (possessing) water", and Griffith "Law wins the booty", for its second line we get the thin fare "heaven and earth, supreme mulch-kine, they yield their milk to *Rita*" (W), "To Law their milk they render" (G) But if we understand the verse aright,  $\equiv$  carrying an octave higher the lofty conception of *Rita* in the *sūkta*, we get nearer its spirit "One who clings fast to *Rita* will attain *Rita* itself The strength  $\equiv$  of *Rita* is so far-reaching that it brings wisdom to those who ensue it, Earth and Heaven, so vast, so deep, owe their existence to *Rita* These two supernal cows yield their ambrosial milk (their treasured contents)

for the gratification of *Rita*" This is the correct meaning

Similarly, we come down heavily when we take *gavo*, in IX-33-4, not in its right sense *here*—"the Vedas"—but of "cows which are lowing and give milk" What a revelation! The mantra says that the words of the Vedas have a triple meaning that kindles the Divine Light in us The translator has to take care that he does not group the words wrongly, seeing that it can play havoc with its sense Here, lumpy-mussy scholarship cuts no ice, scholarship accompanied by intuition holding the key to right interpretation

We have noted the importance of getting down to the deeper meaning of a word, of considering it in vital relation to its context, of grouping the words sensibly Not less essential is a constant awareness of the symbolic meanings, often entwined with the deeper, of words, phrases and names of the Deity As symbolism runs through the warp and woof of the Veda, let us examine it, albeit sketchily

## IX SYMBOLISM AND MYTH IN THE VEDA

Religion and mystic poetry employ both symbol and myth to convey profound ideas It is the way of all psalms and canticles to clothe abstract conceptions in symbols and myths, which are not strained but come unbidden to the truly poetic mind, the *vates sacer* The Rigveda is no exception Rather, it may be looked upon as the archetype of symbolic poetry

In their *Theory of Literature*, which breaks new ground in the field, Professors Rene Wellek and Austin Warren rightly point out "A symbol is an object which refers to another object, but which demands attention also in its own right, as a representation Is there any important sense in which 'symbol' differs from 'image' and 'metaphor'? Primarily, we think, in the recurrence and persistence of the 'symbol'. An image may be invoked once as a metaphor, but if it persistently recurs, both as presenta-

tion and representation, it becomes a 'symbol' ". The myth, in religious poetry, presents spiritual truths in the form of story or narrative. In Western Medieval mystic poetry, there are, for instance, the heroic quests of Percival, Galahad, Bors and other knights of the Round Table for the Sangral or the Holy Grail—stories bodying forth the striving of the human soul for the Vision Beatific or man's inner resurrection. Dante's *Paradiso* will also be recalled. Likewise, don't the Norse myths incorporate profound wisdom? In the *Rigveda* we have the myth of Indra's fight with and victory over Vritra, of the recovery of the lost cows from the Panis, and others

The translator, having no grounding whatsoever in the symbolic character of the entire Veda, would, even at the moment of embarking, run his boat aground on the shallows. He should know that every symbol stands, not for one, but for many inner meanings, that they are, what aestheticians call 'plurisigns'. The symbols are fluid in significance. Of this nature are the symbols of the sacrifice with all its materials and ritual, the deities invoked—Indra, Agni, Mitra, Varuna, Vayu, Maruts, Aditya, Savitar, Tvashtar, Brihaspati, Pushan and others, the ocean and the seven streams, Ushas (the Dawn) and her cows; the cow herself; and the enemies Vritra, Sushna, Namuchi, Dasyus, Vala, the Panis, and others, over whom victory is sought. Be it noted that all the ramifying symbolism is not read into and extorted from the Veda which myopic study regards as a more gross, mundane hymnody of prayers for material wealth and goods, for health and longevity, offspring and victory over enemies, human and other. No one who devotes long days and nights of intense thought to the study of the Veda as outpourings *de profundis* of God-intoxicated men, can escape the insistent beckoning and urgency of the ubiquitous symbolism.

To set forth even with a semblance of adequacy all the symbolism would call for a goodly volume. Here, we can but suggest and glance cursorily at a few of the many recurrent notations.



The Vedic deities represent each some aspect or power of the One Omnipotent Being pervading the cosmos and indwelling the soul of man. The Veda declares: The sages know the One Reality by different names (I-164-46). The *rishis* took all the stresses and strains, all the problems, needs and belongings, of their pastoral life in forest-clearings haunted by enemies—took them as images of the hurdles or aids in their spiritual pilgrimage on earth. When they poured their oblations into the flame, praying for strength and guidance in perilous journeys or for victory over their battles, they were intensely alive to life itself being a sacrifice, a journey, and a long battle over the forces of inner darkness, sin and evil. The *samudh* ablaze stood for flaming Intelligence, the *ghrita* for the concentration that made the flame glow brighter and brighter. The sacred chant was inspired by Brihaspati, Lord of the Sacred Word. The Soma sacrifice brought to the worshipper the chalice of Divine love which culminated in Divine ecstasy. Soma is not only Beatitude but also its presiding deity. He is present in the waters, in all growth and vegetation, and pervades the Cosmos, even as at the sublime close of Dante's *Paradiso*, Love omnipresent rules all the Heavens, all the stars in their motion.

"Like a wheel that steadily whirls,  
So my will and desire are kept in  
even motion by that Love Eternal  
which maintains in divine harmony  
the sun and stars"

We are familiar with the symbol of the Wine (of Divine joy) in mystic poetry. What reader of the several mystic quatrains of Omar Khayyam, can fail to recall it? In the words of Sir George Trevelyan: "At the moon-gate of birth a voice in the tavern invites the young souls to enter and awaken and fill the cup of their body with the wine of Consciousness before 'life's'

liquor in its cup be dry" The cup is the ensouled body to be filled with this Consciousness. It is what Jesus meant in saying, "I am the true vine, ye are the branches. He that drinketh of my Wine shall never thirst." St. Thomas Aquinas cries "Load me with the gifts of the spirit during my exile here and inebriate my soul with Thy Joy"

We have already "dwelt on the varied significance of Ushas or the Dawn—the apotheosis of the illumining dawn of Divine Consciousness, the dawn of Truth. In Rik I-92-14 we have *gomati asvavati vibhavarī sunritavarī*, Dawns with the shining herds, with thy steeds, widely luminous, full of happy truths"<sup>1</sup>, and Rik I-48-2 runs *gomatir asvavatir visvasuvidah* i.e. "Dawns with their radiances (herds), their swiftness (horses), rightly knowing all things"<sup>2</sup>—as the scholar-saint of our day renders them. Again and again, the Veda addresses Ushas as the Mother of the Cows—the rays of the Sun of suns that rises in the heart through rapt devotion. These cows have been stolen by the Panis, who obviously stand for gross worldliness and the scorn of Faith. They have to be recovered through the Grace and might of God. The parent of all sins, of the monstrous brood of evil, is Vritra,—the terrible Nescience and Delusion which could be slain only by Indra's all-powerful aid. The Vajra in His hand is not the thunderbolt in its literal sense, but the invincible omnipotence of God.

We cannot conclude this all-too brief section on an essential aspect of the style and thought of the Veda without noting a group of words that have led astray many modern students. The words, go, asva, hiranya, vira, 1 asi, often occur together. In V-57-7 *gomadasvai ad rathavat suvitam chandravad radho maruto dada nahi*, the sage, yearning for the Light of lights, prays not for bounty in cattle, steeds, cars and heroes, but for that imperishable Treasure, all-bright, for the heroic spirit and strength of mind, ever-striving upward, conquering the enemies within. *Gomad*

<sup>1</sup> Sri Aurobindo's rendering

means here not 'consisting of cows', but all-radiant, *hiranya*, not earthly gold, but the golden Light of God (ॐ इत्यम्).

## X SRI AUROBINDO ON THE PROFOUND INWARDNESS OF THE VEDAS

In the world of mystic utterance the Vedas occupy the heights. No words of mine can so profoundly bring this home to the reader as the searching observations of Sri Aurobindo, which in their stride also expose the shallowness of most Vedic scholarship and the barrenness of ritualistic interpretation.

"According to this interpretation one will easily see that the ritualistic structure which has attained too much of importance at the cost of the spiritual meaning of primals must crack and collapse. It should be conceded, within its confines it has a right and propriety to exist. If it outstrips beyond them and encroaches upon spiritual categories, it must receive a setback from those who have grasped the true meaning of the Vedas. The glorification of the *soma lata* and the extollation of Ushas, the natural phenomenon, have put the Vedists, Mimamsakas and modern scholars, both European and Indian, on the wrong track, and all their labours, however sincere and great, have been a great waste. Indefatigable industry is not synonymous with real knowledge."

"According to the current conceptions, heart of that ancient mystery has been plucked out and revealed to the gaze of all, or rather, no real secret existed. The hymns of the Veda are the sacrificial compositions of a primitive and still barbarous race written around a system of ceremonial and propitiatory rites addressed to personified powers of Nature and replete with a confused mass of half-formed myth and crude astronomical allegories vet in the making. Only in the later hymns do we perceive

the first appearance of deeper psychological and moral ideas—borrowed, some think, from hostile Dravidians, the 'robbers' and "Veda-haters" freely cursed in the hymns themselves—and, however acquired, the first seed of the later Vedantic speculations. This modern theory is in accord with the received idea of a rapid human evolution from the quite recent savage, it is supported by an imposing apparatus of critical research and upheld by a number of sciences, unhappily still young and still largely conjectural in their methods and shifting in their results,—Comparative Philology, Comparative Mythology and the Science of Comparative Religion

"It is my object in these chapters to suggest a new view of the ancient problem. I do not propose to use a negative and destructive method directed against the received solution, but simply to present, positively and constructively a larger and, in some sort, a complementary hypothesis built upon broader foundations,—a hypothesis which, in addition, may shed light on one or two important problems in the history of ancient thought and cult, left very insufficiently solved by the ordinary theories.

"We have in the Rigveda,—the true and only Veda in the estimation of European scholars,—a body of sacrificial hymns couched in a very ancient language which presents a number of almost insoluble difficulties. It is full of ancient forms and words which do not appear in later speech and have often to be fixed in some doubtful sense by intelligent conjecture, a mass even of the words that it has in common with classical Sanskrit seem to bear or at least to admit another significance than in the later literary tongue, and a multitude of its vocables, especially the most common, those which are most vital to the sense, are capable of a surprising number of unconnected significances which may give, according to our preference in selection, quite different complexions to whole passages, whole hymns and even to the whole thought of the Veda. In the

course of several thousands of years there have been at least three considerable attempts, entirely differing from each other in their methods and results, to fix the sense of these ancient litanies. One of these is prehistoric in time and exists only by fragments in the Brahmanas and Upanishads, but we possess in its entirety the traditional interpretation of the Indian scholar Sayana and we have in our own day the interpretation constructed after an immense labour of comparison and conjecture by modern European scholarship. Both of them present one characteristic in common, the extraordinary incoherence and poverty of sense which their results stamp upon the ancient hymns. The separate lines can be given, whether naturally or by force of conjecture, a good sense or a sense that hangs together, the diction that results, if garish in style, if loaded with otiose and decorative epithets, if developing extraordinarily little of meaning in an amazing mass of gaudy figure and verbiage, can be made to run into intelligible sentences, but when we come to read the hymns as a whole we seem to be in the presence of men, who, unlike the early writers of other races, were incapable of coherent and natural expression or of connected thought. Except in the briefer and simpler hymns the language tends to be either obscure or artificial, the thoughts are either unconnected or have to be forced and beaten by the interpreter into a whole. The scholar in dealing with his text is obliged to substitute for interpretation a process almost of fabrication. We feel that he is not so much revealing the sense as hammering and forging rebellious material into some sort of shape and consistency.

all that can be held as authoritative and true in Brahmana and Upanishad, in Tantra and Purana, in the doctrines of great philosophical schools and in the teachings of famous saints and sages. The name borne by them was Veda, the Knowledge,—the received name for the highest spiritual truth of which the human mind is capable. But if we accept the current interpretations, whether Sayana's or the modern theory, the whole of this sublime and sacred reputation is a colossal fiction. The hymns are, on the contrary, nothing more than the naive superstitious fancies of untaught and materialistic barbarians concerned only with the most external gains and enjoyments and ignorant of all but the most elementary moral notions or religious aspirations. Nor do occasional passages, quite out of harmony with their general spirit, destroy this total impression. The true foundation or starting-point of the later religions and philosophies is the Upanishads, which have then to be conceived as a revolt of philosophical and speculative minds against the ritualistic materialism of the Vedas.

1. "But this conception, supported by misleading European parallels, really explains nothing. Such profound and ultimate thoughts, such systems of subtle and elaborate psychology as are found in the substance of the Upanishads, do not spring out of a previous void. The human mind in its progress marches from Knowledge to Knowledge, or it renews and enlarges previous knowledge that has been obscured and overlaid, or it seizes on old imperfect clues and is led by them to new discoveries. The thought of the Upanishads supposes great origins anterior to itself, and these in the ordinary theories are lacking. The hypothesis, invented to fill the gap, that these ideas were borrowed by barbarous Aryan invaders from the civilised Dravidians, is a conjecture supported only by other conjectures. It is indeed coming to be doubted whether the whole story of an Aryan invasion through the Punjab

is not a myth of the philologists

"Now, in ancient Europe the schools of intellectual philosophy were preceded by the secret doctrines of the mystics, Orphic and Eleusinian mysteries prepared the rich soil of mentality out of which sprang Pythagoras and Plato. A similar starting-point is at least probable for the later march of thought in India. Much indeed of the forms and symbols of thought which we find in the Upanishads, much of the substances of the Brahmanas supposes a period in India in which thought took the form or the veil of secret teachings such as those of the Greek mysteries.

"Another hiatus left by the received theories is the gulf that divides the material worship of external Nature-Powers in the Veda from the developed religion of the Greeks and from the psychological and spiritual ideas we find attached to the functions of the Gods in the Upanishads and the Puranas.

As things stand, a gap is left or else has been created by our exclusive preoccupation with the naturalistic element in the religion of the Vedic Rishis.

"I suggest that the gulf is of our own creation and does not really exist in the ancient sacred writings. The hypothesis I propose is that the Rigveda is itself the one considerable document that remains to us from the early period of human thought of which the historic Eleusinian and Orphic mysteries were the failing remnants, when the spiritual and psychological knowledge of the race was concealed, for reasons now difficult to determine, in a veil of concrete and material figures and symbols which protected the sense from the profane and revealed it to the initiated. One of the leading principles of the mystics was the sacredness and secrecy of self-knowledge and the true knowledge of the Gods. *The wisdom was, they thought, unfit, perhaps even dangerous to the ordinary human mind or in any case liable to perversion and misuse and loss of virtue if revealed to vulgar and unpurified spirits*

Hence they favoured the existence of an outer worship, effective but imperfect, for the profane, an inner discipline for the initiate, and clothed their language in words and images which had, equally, a spiritual sense for the elect, a concrete sense for the mass of ordinary worshippers. The Vedic hymns were conceived and constructed on this principle. Their formulas and ceremonies are, overtly, the details of an outward ritual devised for the Pantheistic Nature-Worship which was then the common religion, covertly, the sacred words, the effective symbols of a spiritual experience and knowledge and a psychological discipline of self-culture which were then the highest achievement of the human race. The ritual system recognised by Sayana may, in its externalities, stand, the naturalistic sense discovered by European scholarship may, in its general conception, be accepted, but behind them there is always the true and still hidden secret of the Veda,—the secret words, ninya sacamsi, which were spoken for the purified in soul and the awakened in knowledge. To disengage this less obvious but more important sense by fixing the import of Vedic terms, the sense of Vedic symbols and the psychological functions of the Gods is thus a difficult but necessary task, for which these chapters and the translations that accompany them are only a preparation.

"The hypothesis, if it proves to be valid, will have three advantages. It will elucidate simply and effectively the parts of the Upanishads that remain yet unintelligible or ill-understood as well as much of the origins of the Puranas. It will explain and justify rationally the whole ancient tradition of India, for it will be found that, in sober truth, the Vedānta, Purāṇa, Tantra, the philosophical schools and the great Indian religions do go back in their source to Vedic origins. We can see there in their original seed or in their early or even primitive forms the fundamental conceptions of later Indian thought. Thus a natural starting-point will be



provided for a sounder study of Comparative Religion in the Indian field. Instead of wandering amid insecure speculations or having to account for impossible conversions and unexplained transitions, we shall have a clue to a natural and progressive development satisfying to the reason. Incidentally, some light may be thrown on the obscurities of early cult and myth in other ancient nations. Finally, the incoherencies of the Vedic texts will at once be explained and disappear. They exist in appearance only, because the real thread of sense is to be found in an inner meaning. That thread found, the hymns appear as logical and organic wholes and the expression, though alien in type to our modern ways of thinking and speaking, becomes, in its own style, just and precise and sins rather by economy of phrase than by excess, by over-pregnancy rather than by poverty of sense. The Veda ceases to be *merely an interesting remnant of barbarism* and takes rank among the most important of the world's early Scriptures.

"Veda, then, is the creation of an age anterior to our intellectual philosophies. In that original epoch thought proceeded by other methods than those of our logical reasoning and speech, by accepted modes of expression which in our modern habits would be inadmissible. The wisest then depended on finer experience and the suggestions of the intuitive mind for all knowledge that ranged beyond mankind's ordinary perceptions and daily activities. Their aim was illumination, not logical conviction, their ideal the inspired seer, not the accurate reasoner. Indian tradition has faithfully preserved this account of the origin of the Vedas. The Rishi was not the individual composer of the hymn, but the seer (*drasta*) of an eternal truth and an impersonal knowledge. The language of Veda itself is śruti, a rhythm not composed by the intellect but heard, a divine word that came vibrating out of the Infinite to the inner audience of the man who had previously made

himself fit for the impersonal knowledge. The words themselves, drusti and sruti, sight and hearing, are Vedic expressions, these and cognate words signify, in the esoteric terminology of the hymns, revelatory knowledge and the contents of inspiration.

"In the Vedic idea of the revelation there is no suggestion of the miraculous or the supernatural. The Rishi who employed these faculties, had acquired them by a progressive self-culture. Knowledge itself was a travelling and a reaching, or a finding and a winning, the revelation came only at the end, the light was the prize of a final victory. There is continually in the Veda this image of the journey, the soul's march on the path of Truth. On that path, as it advances, it also ascends, new vistas of power and light open to its aspiration, it wins by a heroic effort its enlarged spiritual possessions.

"From the historical point of view the Rigveda may be regarded as a record of a great advance made by humanity by special means at a certain period of its collective progress. In its esoteric, as well as its exoteric significance, it is the Book of Works, of the inner and outer sacrifice. It is the spirit's hymn of battle and victory as it discovers and climbs to planes of thought and experience inaccessible to the natural or animal man, man's praise of the divine Light, Power and Grace at work in the mortal. It is far, therefore, from being an attempt to set down the results of intellectual or imaginative speculation, nor does it consist of the dogmas of a primitive religion.

"The hymns possess indeed a finished metrical form, a constant subtlety and skill in their technique, great variations of style and poetical personality, they are not the work of rude, barbarous and primitive craftsmen, but the living breath of a supreme and conscious Art forming its creations in the puissant but well-governed movement of a self-observing inspiration. Still, all these high gifts have deliberately been

exercised within one unvarying framework and always with the same materials. For the art of expression was to the Rishis only a means, not an aim, their principal pre-occupation was strenuously practical, almost utilitarian, in the highest sense of utility. The hymn was to the Rishi who composed it a means of spiritual progress for himself and for others. It rose out of his soul, it became a power of his mind, it was the vehicle of his self-expression in some important or even critical moment of his life's inner history. It helped him to express the god in him, to destroy the devourer, the expressor of evil. It became a weapon in the hands of the Aryan striver after perfection, it flashed forth like Indra's lightning against the Coverer on the slopes, the Wolf on the path, the Robber by the streams."

## XI MODERN VIEWS ABOUT THE AGE OF THE VEDAS

Though all great scholars are agreed as to the Vedas being the most hoary of all the literatures of the world, they hold widely divergent views with regard to the probable age in which they were composed and it is still a moot point. An historian has to draw his materials from and base his conclusions on ancient sources. The sources would naturally be the ancient religions of the world, for instance, Avestan. The study of *Zend Avesta* proves beyond a shadow of doubt that the Vedas preceded the Avestan Gathas. Jainism and Buddhism bear the impress of the Vedas in some respects, while revolting against them in others. Of far later date is Christianity. Judaism, the polytheistic religion of Greece and Zoroastrianism do not seem to be older than 1000 B.C.

Max Müller assigned the Rigveda approximately to 1200 B.C. In ancient Indian chronology two dates are considered to be approximate landmarks—the year of Buddha's Nirvana (c. 486 B.C.) and that of the coronation of Asoka (between 277 and 260 B.C.) Chandragupta, the founder-king of the

Mauryan dynasty, who was succeeded by his son, Bindusara (the father and predecessor of Asoka), ruled between 324 and 300 B.C. It is well known that Chandragupta put down the Nandas and that Katyayana, the author of the *Vartikas*, was the minister of the Nandas. His date is somewhere about 325 B.C. Patanjali, the author of the *Vyakarana Mahabhashya*, has been placed by Indologists in the second century B.C., which, allowing as it does sufficient interval between him and Katyayana, renders 4th Century B.C. the probable age of the latter. Katyayana also wrote the *Sarvanukramanis*—one to the Rigveda and another to the Yajurveda. Saunaka too wrote an *Anukramani* to the Rigveda. Max Müller shows Saunaka to be the earlier of the two, pointing out that he writes in mixed slokas, taking great liberty with the metre, while Katyayana writes in prose, interlarding it with the artificial contrivances of the later Suttas; and further, that Saunaka's index follows the original and natural division of the Rigveda into Mandalas, Anuvakas and Suktas, while Katyayana divides the Rigveda into Ashtakas, Adhyayas and Vargas, which, though more practical, are more modern and artificial. Both agree in following the joint Sakha of the Sakalas and Bashkalas. Katyayana, however, includes the supplementary hymns, i.e. Khilas, known as Valakhilyas, thus raising the total number of hymns from 1017 to 1028. Hence Katyayana appears to be posterior to Saunaka. In his commentary on *Sarvanukramanis* of Katyayana, Sadgurushishya has made some remarks from which one can gather that there were four generations of teachers and pupils—first Saunaka, second Asvalayana, third Katyayana, and fourth Patanjali. Katyayana, alias Vararuchi, is mentioned by Somadeva in his *Ka'hasaritsagara* as the minister of King Nanda. Katyayana's date would then be somewhere near 350 B.C. and Saunaka's round about 400 B.C. It stands to reason to suppose that Saunaka's work is not the earliest of the Suttas and cannot also be the last of them. We have, therefore, to assume that it must have been composed during the Sutra

period, that is, approximately from 600 to 200 B C. Max Muller arrives at the same view upon considering the style and language of the works known as *Parisishtas*, which are the last offshoots of the *Sutra* literature. The peculiarity of the *Parisishtas* is that they present everything in a popular and superficial manner. Their trend to make everything easily understandable is so prominent that they are open to the charge of superficiality. This shows that the writer of the *Sutras* must have felt that the Vedic religion was being ignored on the score of its being not so easily intelligible as the Buddhist religion which was easily grasped by the masses. Naturally the advocates of Vedic religion felt the imperative need of putting everything in as few and clear words as possible. Moreover, the *Sutra* style would be tersely argumentative. From this it can be safely inferred that the *Sutra* period must be coeval with the gradual decline of Brahmanism and the steady rise of Buddhism. On this ground also it is reasonable to hold that the *Sutra* period extended from 600 to 200 B C. It is quite evident that the *Sutras*, which seek to simplify the complicated system of ceremonials, necessarily presuppose the existence of the *Brahmanas*. So the *Brahmana* period may be supposed to range from 800 to 600 B C., assuming 200 years to be the minimum period necessary for the progress of thought and the composition of pertinent literature. In and through the *Brahmana* period is exhibited a stratum of thought perfectly unintelligible without the supposition of a preceding age during which, according to Max Muller, all that is misunderstood, perverted and absurd in the *Brahmanas* had its natural growth. But even between these two periods there must have intervened an age when people were no longer creative, free and original, but living only on the heritage of a former age, passing their best time in collecting, classifying and imitating. This may be called the *Mantra* period and it is assumed that it may have extended over two hundred years, i.e. from 1000 to 800 B C.

These three periods of Vedic literature, namely, those of

*Mantras*, *Brahmanas* and *Sutras*, presuppose a time which gets the credit of producing a wealth of literature in the form of hymns. That age must have been a time when the hymns, collected with great care, zeal and faith in the *Mantra* period, explained with elaborate pedantry during the *Brahmana* period, examined, analysed and condensed with mathematical exactness during the *Sutra* period, were understood without any effort and appreciated with plenitude of joy—a time characterized by spontaneity, originality and truth. This time, styled as *Chandas* period, may be imagined to have extended over two hundred years, from 1200 to 1000 B.C. Thus Max Müller comes to the conclusion that the date of the Rigveda must have been about 1200 B.C.

Similar conjectures or postulates have been made by other scholars also. Whitney would place the oldest hymns between 2000 and 1500 B.C. Kaegi, supporting him, says that after everything is taken into account this estimate is certainly not too high and has the greatest claim to probability. Benfey remarks, "It can hardly be doubted that the most eastern branch had their abode on the Indus as early as 2000 years before the Christian Era." Weber assigns the Aryan migration into the Indus land to the 16th century B.C.

The unsatisfactory feature of such views can be easily seen. In the first place, no arguments based on language and thought can be held to be conclusive in themselves if they are not supported by other indisputable and independent evidence. Secondly, these estimates are based upon assumptions which are yet to be proved. What proof is there that the Vedic scholar, *Katya-yana*, and the grammarian, *Katya-yana*, are identical? References to him by *Sāṅgurusūthya* in his commentary on *Sarvaṇukta-rāma* and by *Somadeva* in his *Kaṭhasanisagara* happen to be the main planks of the argument. But their historical value has so far not been proved. Thirdly, the assignment of 200 years to the rise and development of each class of Vedic literature is most

arbitrary Others may as well assign 500 or 1000 years or even more to each of them Max Müller himself feels the arbitrary character of his assumption Witness his summing up 'The chronological limits assigned to the Sutras and Brahmana periods will seem to most Samskrit scholars too narrow rather than too wide, and if we assign but 200 years to the Mantra period from 800 to 1000 B C and an equal number to the Chandas period, from 1000 to 1200 B C, we can do so only under the supposition that during the early periods of history, the growth of the human mind was more luxuriant than in later times and that the layers of thought were framed less slowly in the primary than in the tertiary ages of the world' Many Indian scholars concur in rejecting this 200-year development for each type, for they rightly hold that the estimate made by Max Muller is ridiculously low even from the point of view of the progress of language and thought The difference between the Vedic Samskrit and the Classical Samskrit is so vast that quite a long period must have intervened between the two, as may be seen from the much longer centuries taken by other languages to develop or undergo fundamental changes For instance just consider the fact that Classical Samskrit has remained the same for over twenty centuries Even Max Muller realized that his estimate was too low, and after revising his conclusion assigned the Vedic hymns to a period ranging from 1500 to 1200 B C Dr Macdonell says 'The hymns of the R V are composed in the earliest stage of that literary language of which the latest or Classical Sanskrit was stereotyped by the grammar of Panini at the end of the 4th century B C It differs from the latter about as much as Homeric from Attic Greek It exhibits a much greater variety of forms than Sanskrit does Its case-forms both in nominal and pronominal inflexion are more numerous It has more participles and gerunds It is however, in verbal forms that its comparative richness is most apparent Thus the R V very frequently uses the subjunctive, which as such has entirely died out in Sanskrit,

it has twelve forms of the infinitive, while only a single one of these has survived in Sanskrit. The language of the R V also differs from Sanskrit in its accent which, like that of Ancient Greek, is of a musical nature, depending on the pitch of the voice, and is marked throughout the hymns. This accent has in Sanskrit been changed not only to a stress accent, but has shifted its position as depending on quantity, and is no longer marked. The Vedic accent occupies a very important position in Comparative Philology, while the Sanskrit accent, being secondary, has no value of this kind. The Sandhi of the R V represents an earlier and a less conventional stage than that of Sanskrit."

Regarding the age of the Rigveda Macdonell says "The Rigveda is undoubtedly the oldest literary monument of the Indo-European languages. But the exact period when the hymns were composed is a matter of conjecture. All that we can say with any approach to certainty is that the oldest of them cannot date from later than the thirteenth century B.C. This assertion is based on the following grounds. Buddhism, which began to spread in India about 500 B.C., presupposes the existence not only of the Vedas, but also of the intervening literature of the Brahmanas and the Upanishads. The development of language and religious thought apparent in the extensive literature of the successive phases of these two Vedic periods renders it necessary to postulate the lapse of seven or eight centuries to account for the gradual changes, linguistic, religious, social and political, that this literature displays. On astronomical grounds, one Sanskrit scholar has concluded that the oldest Vedic hymns date from 3000 B.C., while another puts them as far back as 6000 B.C. These calculations are based on the assumption that the early Indians possessed an exact astronomical knowledge of the sun's course such as there is no evidence, or even probability, that they actually possessed. On the other hand, the possibility of such extreme antiquity seems to be disproved by the relationship of the hymns of the Rigveda to that oldest part of the



Avesta, which can hardly date earlier than from about 800 B C. That relationship is so close that the language of the Avesta, if it were known at a stage some five centuries earlier, could scarcely have differed at all from that of the Rigveda. Hence the Indians could not have separated from the Iranians much sooner than 1300 B C. But, according to Professor Jacobi, the separation took place before 4500 B C. In that case we must assume that the Iranian and the Indian languages remained practically unchanged for the truly immense period of over 3000 years. We must thus rest content with the moderate estimate of the thirteenth century B C. as the approximate date for the beginning of the Rigvedic period. This estimate has not been invalidated by the discovery in 1907 of the names of Indian deities, Mitra, Varuna, Indra, Nasatya, in an inscription of about 1400 B C. found in Asia Minor. For the phonetic form in which these names there appear may quite well belong to the Indo-Iranian period when the Indians and Persians were still one people. The date of the inscription leaves two centuries for the separation of the Indians, their migration to India, and the commencement of Vedic hymn literature in the north-west of Hindustan."

But, as against this thesis, Kaegi notes "The determination of the Vedic period deduced from the difference in language and in religious and social views between the hymns and the fixed dates of Buddhism, can approximate the true period by centuries. This shows that the linguistic or literary theories fail to fix with certainty the date of Rigveda."

7 Other theories have been advanced by several scholars, both European and Indian, on the basis of many astronomical observations in the Vedas and Vedangas. Haug, on the strength of a sentence in *Vedanga jyotisha* referring to the position of the solstitial points, determines the age of the Vedas. The position as described in the passage takes us back to the year 1186 B C.—a date that indicates the time of the *Vedanga jyotisha*. This reference enables Haug to come to two conclusions: (1) That, even early

in the 12th century B C., Indians had made remarkable progress in astronomy so as to enable them to make such observations, and (2) that by that time, the liturgical science with all its details as laid down in the *Brahmana* works was complete. He, therefore, places the bulk of the *Brahmanas* between 1400-1200 B C. Assuming 600 years for the composition of the *Samhita*, its age falls between 2000 to 1400 B C.

S B Dixit, on the strength of the *Satapatha Brahmana* aims at fixing the age of the Rigveda, basing his inference on the passage, which runs

एक ई श्रीणि चत्वारोति वा अन्यानि नक्षत्राणि । अयंता एव भूमिष्ठा यत्कृत्ति  
पैकास्तम्भमानमेवत इति । तस्मात् कृत्तिवास्वादधीत । एता ह ये प्राच्ये  
हिरो न च्यवन्ते । सर्वाणि ह वा अन्यानि नक्षत्राणि प्राच्ये दिरा श्रघवन्ते ।  
शतपथब्राह्मणम् २१२

"The *Krittikas*, that were seen to rise exactly at the eastern point from which they never moved, at present rise a little to the northern side of the eastern point,"—which points to a period about 300 B C as the time of that *Brahmana*. The *Taittiriya Samhita*, beyond doubt preceded the *Satapatha*, and it goes without saying that the Rigveda is by far older than either of these.

Lokamanya Tilak, in his *Orion*, assigns a greater antiquity to the Rigveda. He has done his best to show in his work that the "traditions recorded in the Rigveda unmistakably point to a period not later than 4000 B C, when the Vernal Equinox was in Orion, or in other words, when the dog-star, as we have it in the Rigveda, commenced the equinoctial year." On the evidence of a large number of astronomical references scattered about the ancient Sanskrit literature he has come to four different periods. The oldest period is the Aditi or pre-Orion period, with the Vernal Equinox at or near Punarvasu, roughly extending from 6000 B C to 4000 B C. In this period the finished

hymns seem not to have been known, and half prose and half poetical Nivids or sacrificial formulae giving the principal names, epithets and feats of the deity invoked were probably in use. The next is the Orion period, roughly extending from 4000 B C to 2500 B C, from the time when the Vernal Equinox was in the eastern Ardra to the time when it receded to the asterism Kritika. The *Vrishakapi* hymn X 86, which is very obscure, can be more satisfactorily explained than has hitherto been done both by Indian commentators and European scholars on the assumption that it refers to the fact of the equinoxes coinciding with the Orion. This second period is the most important period in the history of the Aryans. A large number of Suktas of the Rigveda were composed during this time. Hence this can be called the most active Vedic period. The third is the Kritika period, commencing with the Vernal Equinox in the asterism Kritika and extending up to the period recorded in the *Vedanga Jyotisha*, i.e. from 2500 B C to 1400 B C. It was the period of the *Taittiriya Samhita* and several of the Brahmanas. It appears that the hymns of the Rigveda had already become antique and obscure by this time, and speculations, often too free, about the meanings of these hymns and legends were ventured. The fourth and the last period extends from 1400 B C to 500 B C or the birth of Buddhism. It was the period of Sutras, and many philosophical systems took their birth in this period.

Jacobi, who also bases his theory on astronomical calculations, arrives at the conclusion that the Rigveda can be assigned to at least 4000 B C.

Dr Abinav Chandra Das says in his *Preface to Rigvedic Culture* "From astronomical calculations based on the position of certain stars mentioned in some of the Rigvedic Mantras, the vast antiquity of the Rigveda and Rigvedic culture can also be inferred. Professors Pischel and Geldner in their *Vedische Studien* (Vol VII, Part I) recognized the value and importance of such calcula-

tions *Cambridge History of India*, Vol I, Part III, has tried to refute this theory "

Sir R G Bhandarkar has pointed out a new line of approach to the problem of the Vedic Age. He suggests that the enquiry should rather start from the work 'Asura'. Arguing out the identity of 'Asura' and 'Assyrian', he comes to the conclusion that the dawn and development of the hymnal literature may be pushed back to about 2500 B C

Dr Abinas Chandra Das has attempted in his *Rigvedic Culture* to prove that the original home of the Aryans lay in ancient Sapta Sindhu (or the Punjab) and he has also tried to meet the objections raised against this theory by distinguished European savants like Sten Konov of Christiania University and M Winternitz of Prague University. Says Dr Das 'Three objections seem, at present, to stand out against the acceptance of the theory propounded by me in my book, *Rigvedic India*, about the original cradle of the Aryan race in ancient Sapta Sindhavah or the Punjab. The first objection is with regard to the geological evidence of the different distribution of land and water in Northern India, which coincides, in my opinion, with the internal evidence of the *Rigveda* about the actual existence of such a distribution in *Rigvedic* times and the consequent inference of the vast antiquity of *Rigvedic* culture and civilization. The second objection is the difficulty felt by modern scholars in believing (admitting that the geological evidence was correct) that the Aryans, who were a highly intellectual race, were so slow in developing their culture through several millenniums. And the third objection is that advanced by Professor M Winternitz of Prague University in his Readership Lecture delivered at the University of Calcutta in August 1923 to the effect that it is absolutely impossible that the language of the *Rigveda* should be so little different as it is from the old Persian in the 6th century B C and from the Sanskrit of Panini and Patanjali, if it had been the language of a people that lived even only in the

existence of a Pleistocene Sea covering the Gangetic trough at the foot of the Himalayan Range,—a sea that undoubtedly lashed for several thousand years till it was gradually filled up by the waste of the high lands and the alluvium brought down by the Himalayan rivers and the two large rivers of Central India, viz the Sone and the Chambal. As regards the existence of a sea in Rajputana in the Pleistocene period, the evidence is still very meagre, but Mr Wadia writes of “marine transgressions” which caused portions of Rajputana to be invaded occasionally by the encroachments of the Arabian Sea, such encroachments lasting probably for thousands of years at a time. He says such invasions of the sea on land are of comparatively short duration and flood only low level areas, converting them for the time being into “epi-continental seas”. The duration of these encroachments was ‘short’, only geologically speaking. It must be computed by at least thousands of years. The surmise of Dr Das, however, is that in Rigvedic times when the Saraswati flowed right into the sea, there was probably one such marine transgression made by the sea.

Apropos, Dr Das says “On the top of all the evidence unexpectedly come independent proofs, or at least, very intelligent guesses about the existence of a sea about fifty thousand years ago, extending from the Arabian Sea right through Rajputana and Northern India to the Bay of Bengal, cutting off the Punjab, such as it then was, from Southern India, in an interesting, fascinating volume entitled the *Outline of History* written by Mr H G Wells.

Mr Wells suggests the names of Asia Minor, Persia, Arabia, India or North Africa as the probable places of the cradle of the Aryan race. But North Africa need not at all be taken into account as it was peopled by the Negroid race. For similar reasons, Asia Minor, Mesopotamia and Arabia also should be eliminated, as all historians admit that these countries were the cradle of the Semitic people. If there are traces of Aryan

Quaternary, to say nothing of the Miocene or Pliocene epochs I admit the apparent force of these objections, and take this opportunity for making a few observations on the point "

Dr Das first examines the geological evidence He says that there is the clearest mention in the Rigveda (VII 95 2) that the Saraswati flowed from the Himalaya right into the sea

एका चेतसरस्वती नदीनां शुचिं रयती गिरिम्य आसंसुद्रात्  
रयश्चेतन्ती भुवनस्य भूरेर्धृतं पयो दुदुहे नार्हुपाय ।

VII 95 2

His natural inference is that in Rigvedic times there must have been a sea, occupying the desert tract of Rajputana where the Saraswati now loses herself in its sands Further he says that there is also the clearest mention of the existence of an Eastern Sea (Purva Samudra) in the Rigveda (X 136 5), but as this Sea could not have been the Bay of Bengal, because a knowledge of this Sea (i e the Bay of Bengal) presupposed a knowledge of the alluvial provinces lying between the Punjab and the Bay, of which, however, there is no mention at all in the Rigveda, and as the Sea's contiguity to the Punjab in Rigvedic times is clearly indicated by a number of verses, he naturally infers that it lay to the immediate East of the Punjab There is also, he goes on to say, mention in the Rigveda of the prevalence of a cold climate in this ancient province, cold to such an extent as to have necessitated the year to have been named Hima or Winter, and mention, too, of the existence of Four Seas round about the country inhabited by the Rigvedic Aryans Surprisingly enough, the existence of a Miocene sea, cutting off the Punjab from Southern India was asserted by some old geologists, but this period seemed too early and remote for the development of a civilization like that depicted in the Rigveda; he therefore surmises that this sea must have existed down to later geological periods Mr D N Wadja in his *Geology of India* mentions the

existence of a Pleistocene Sea covering the Gangetic trough at the foot of the Himalayan Range,—a sea that undoubtedly lashed for several thousand years till it was gradually filled up by the waste of the high lands and the alluvium brought down by the Himalayan rivers and the two large rivers of Central India, viz the Sone and the Chambal. As regards the existence of a sea in Rajputana in the Pleistocene period, the evidence is still very meagre, but Mr Wadia writes of "marine transgressions" which caused portions of Rajputana to be invaded occasionally by the encroachments of the Arabian Sea, such encroachments lasting probably for thousands of years at a time. He says such invasions of the sea on land are of comparatively short duration and flood only low level areas, converting them for the time being into "epi-continental seas". The duration of these encroachments was 'short', only geologically speaking. It must be computed by at least thousands of years. The surmise of Dr Das, however, is that in Rigvedic times when the Saraswati flowed right into the sea, there was probably one such marine transgression made by the sea.

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culture and civilization still to be found here and there in Asia Minor and Mesopotamia, they must be due to other causes than the probability of their having been the original cradle of the Aryans, viz immigration, colonization, and conquests etc. The only other two regions which may claim to be the original cradle of the Aryans, are, therefore, India and Persia. Both Northern India and Persia were inhabited in ancient times by a people who called themselves Aryans, and claimed to have lived in these regions and therein developed their civilization from time immemorial. The Iranians of Persia and the Aryans of Sapta Sindhavah (the ancient Punjab) were ethnologically one people, speaking nearly one and the same language or different dialects of it, having nearly the same myths, and worshipping nearly the same gods. The descendants of the people still inhabit these regions with a literature and civilization regarded to be the earliest of the Aryan race. European scholars have turned their research telescope to all possible directions from Central Asia to the Arctic regions, and from the Arctic regions to Northern and Central Europe, and even to Asia Minor and Mesopotamia, excepting India and Persia and are content to believe that the Central Europe was the original cradle of the race, in spite of unmistakable and even positive geological and ethnological proofs and evidence to the contrary. They could not but declare the Rigveda to be the earliest work extant of the Aryan race, but probably not studying it with the spirit of detachment absolutely necessary for the discovery of historical truths and having their vision limited, circumscribed, or turned away by their telescope being focussed to a wrong point, they have failed to be struck and impressed by the many startling and wonderful proofs, found interspersed in the pages of the above-named ancient Scripture, about the hoary antiquity of Rigvedic culture and civilization and about their origin and development in the Land of the Seven Rivers or the Punjab from later Palaeolithic and Neolithic times. If they had done this, allowed their vision a



broad sweep in all directions, they would undoubtedly have come to the conclusion that the original cradle of the white Neolithic peoples of Europe, the ancestors of the present European races, was in the Punjab and Iran, situated in South Western Asia whence they entered into Europe with Aryan speech and Neolithic culture, about 15000 or 20000 years ago, when the ice had permanently receded to the north from Southern and Central Europe

It has been pointed above that the map of India 50000 years ago, as sketched by Mr Wells, agrees in its salient features with the geographical description of the Punjab or Sapta Sindhavah, as can be gathered from the Rigveda. These salient features must have continued to exist down to 35000 or 25000 years ago, and even later, and it is quite natural and reasonable to infer that the composition of some of the ancient hymns or verses of the Rigveda must be as old as that period. The present hymns of the Rigveda were, therefore, not the oldest literature of the Aryans, but there were older and still older hymns, which came down to the Rigvedic Aryans from generations to generations "clad in white and shining raiment" and the period when the hymns first began to be composed is now lost in "the impenetrable darkness of the past"

*Selections from  
Mandala I*

नमो<sup>१</sup> महद्भ्यो नमो<sup>१</sup> अर्धकेभ्यो नमो युवभ्यो नम आशिनेभ्यः ।  
यजाम देवान्यदि<sup>१</sup> शक्रवाम मा ज्यायसः शंसमा वृक्षि देवाः ॥

I-27-13

Salutation to all beings, great and small, salutation to young and old Let us worship gods if we can, but, at least, let us, ye gods, never fail in paying our reverence to our elders and betterers

WILSON

Veneration to the great gods, veneration to the lesser, veneration to the young, veneration to the old, we worship (all) the gods as well as we are able may I not omit the praise of the elder divinities

GRAFFITH

Glory to the Gods, the mighty and the lesser, glory to Gods the younger and the elder

Let us if we have power, pay the gods worship no better prayer than this, ye Gods, acknowledge

OLDENBERG

Reverence to the great ones, reverence to the lesser ones<sup>१</sup> Reverence to the young, reverence to the old<sup>१</sup> Let us sacrifice to the gods, if we can May I not, O gods, fall as a victim to the curse of my better

त्वं तमग्ने अमृतत्वं उत्तमे मर्त॑ दधासि श्रवसे दिवेदि॑वे ।  
 यस्ता॑तृ॒पा॒ण उ॒म॒र्या॒य ज॒न्म॒ने म॒र्यः कृ॒णो॒पि प्र॒य आ च॑ सु॒र्ये ॥

I-31-7

Thou O Agni, givest mortal man his daily bread and bestowest on him the highest immortality On a wise man who yearns for prosperous life, here and hereafter, Thou conferst high felicity here, and the highest bliss hereafter

### WILSON

Thou sustainest, Agni, that mortal (who worships thee) in the best immortality by daily food thou bestowest on the sage, who is desirous (of creatures) of both kinds of birth, happiness, and sustenance

### GRIFFITH

For glory, Agni, day by day, thou liftest up the mortal man to highest immortality,—

Even thou who yearning for both races givest them great bliss, and to the prince grantest abundant food *Note* Both races Gods and men

### OLDENBERG

Thou, O Agni, keepest that mortal in the highest immortality, in glory day by day, (thou) who being thirsty thyself givest happiness to both races (gods and men), and joy to the rich

त्वमग्ने प्रमतिस्त्वं पितासि' नस्त्वं वयस्कृत्तव जामयो' वयम् ।  
 सं त्वा रायः शतिनः सं सहस्रिणः सुवीरं' यन्ति व्रतपामदाम्य ॥

1-31-10

Thou, Agni, art so gracious to us that we feel Thou art our father, our life-giver Naturally, we feel that we are Thy close kinsmen Invincible as Thou art, Thou lovest brave people Defender Thou art of piety (the pious), so it is that things most prized speed unto Thee in hundreds, why, in thousands

WILSON

Thou, Agni, art well disposed to us, thou art our protector, thou art giver of life to us, we are thy kinsmen Unjurable Agni, hundreds and thousands of treasures belong to thee, who art the defender of pious acts and attended by good men

GRIFFITH

Agni, thou art our Providence, our Father thou, we are thy brethren and thou art our spring of life

In thee, rich in good heroes, guard of high decrees, meet hundred thousand treasures, O infallible!

OLDENBERG

Thou, O Agni, art our guardian, thou art our father Thou art the giver of strength, we are thy kinsmen Hundredfold, thousandfold treasures come together in thee, who art rich in heroes, the guardian of the law, O undecervable one

त्वमे॒ग्न उरु॑संसा॒य वा॒घते॑ स्पा॒हं यद्रे॒वणः॑ पर॒म व॒नोपि॑ तत् ।  
 आ॒ग्रस्य॑ चि॒त्रम॑तिरु॒च्यसे॑ पि॒ता प्र पा॒क शा॒स्सि प्र॒दिशो॑ वि॒दुष्टैः॑ ॥

I-31-14

Thou, Agni, conferst on the wise devotee who praises Thee with a fervent and devout heart that highest treasure most desired by all Thou art rightly deemed a most bountiful Father to the sorely afflicted, omniscient as Thou art, Thou guidest the guideless, and Thou rulest over all the cardinal points

WILSON

Thou, Agni, desirest (that the worshipper may acquire) that excellent wealth which is requisite for the many-commended priest, thou art called the well-intentioned protector Thou, who art all-wise, instructest the disciple, and (definest) the points of the horizon

GRIFFITH

Thou, Agni, gapest for the loudly-praising priest the highest wealth, the object of a man's desire—

Thou art called Father, caring even for the weak, and, wisest, to the simple one thou teachest lore

OLDENBERG

Thou, O Agni, gapest for the widely-renowned worshipper that property which is desirable and excellent Thou art called the guardian and father even of the weak, thou instructest the simple, thou, the greatest sage, the quarters of the world

## PRAYER FOR KNOWLEDGE AND WISDOM

ए॒ताया॒मोषं॑ ग॒व्यन्त॒ इन्द्र॑म॒स्माकं॑ सु॒ प्रम॑र्तिं वावृ॒धाति॑ ।

अ॒नामृ॑णः कु॒विदा॒दस्य॒ रायो॒ गवां॒ केतं॒ पर॑मावर्ज॒ते नः॑ ॥

I-33-1

Come, let us approach Indra in quest of Vedas (i.e. Vedic knowledge) He will surely deepen our understanding of the Vedas, whereupon (on our approaching Him) He will bless us with the Master-Light of the Vedas, our richest treasure

WILSON

Come, let us repair to Indra, (to recover our stolen cattle), for he, devoid of malice, exhilarates our minds, thereupon he will bestow upon us perfect knowledge of this wealth, (which consists) of kine

GRIFFITH

Come, fain for booty let us seek Indra ye more shall he increase his care that guides us

Will not the Indestructible endow us with perfect knowledge of this wealth, of cattle?

NOTE *Fain for booty gavyantah* literally, seeking or eager for kine, that is, booty or wealth consisting chiefly of cattle

सुगः पन्थां अनृक्षर आदित्यास ऋतं यते । नात्रावखादो अस्ति वः ।

1-41-4

Adityas, for a man who seeks God, the Truth, a royal road there is, all smooth and thornless, ye aspirants, on this road, bumps or pot-holes there are none

WILSON

Adityas, to you repairing to the sacrifice, the path is easy and free from thorns no unworthy oblation is here prepared for you

GRIFFITH

Thornless, Adityas, is the path, easy for him who seeks the Law

With him is naught to anger you



मा वो धनन्तं मा अर्पन्तं प्रति॑ वोचे देव॒यन्त॑म् । सु॒भ्रैरिद्धि॒ वा वि॑वासे ।

I-41-8

Never would I retaliate against your devotee, even if he beats and curses me I shall only invoke your blessings on them by my prayers

WILSON

I do not denounce to you him who assails or reviles the man devoted to the gods, I rather propitiate you with offered wealth

GRIFFITH

I point not out to you a man who strikes the pious, or reviles  
Only with hymns I call you nigh

यदिन्निवन्द्र पृथिवी दशमुजिरहानि विश्वा ततनेन्त कृष्टयः ।  
 अत्राह ते मघवन्विश्वं सहो घामनु शर्वसा वर्हणा भुवत ॥

I-52-11

God Almighty, were the earth ten times its present extent, were all its beings to extol Thy greatness, day in, day out, through all eternity, even then, Thy strength, prowess and valour, would immeasurably outstrip them all and outsoar the welkin

WILSON

Although, Indra, the earth were tenfold (its extent), and men multiplied every day, yet, Maghavan, thy prowess would be equally renowned, the exploits achieved by thy might would be spread abroad with the heavens

GRIFFITH

O Indra, were this earth extended forth tenfold and men who dwell therein multiplied day by day.

Still here thy conquering might, Maghavan, would be famed: it hath waxed vast as Heaven in majesty and power

त्वं भुवः प्रनिमान' पृथिव्या ऋष्ववीरस्य बृहतः पतिर्भूः ।  
 विश्वमाप्रा अन्तरिक्षं महित्वा सत्यमद्धा नकिरन्यस्त्वावान् ॥

I-52-13

Thou, (O Lord), hast filled the vast earth and the high Heaven  
 peopled with foremost heroes, and Thou art their Sovereign  
 Master. Thou fillest all space with Thy infinite vastness In very  
 truth there is absolutely none that can even remotely compare  
 with Thee

WILSON

Thou art the type of the extended earth, thou art the lord of  
 the vast god-frequented (*Swarga*) verily with thy bulk thou  
 fillest all the firmament, of a truth, there is none other such as  
 thou

GRIFFITH

Thou art the counterpart of earth, the Master of lofty heaven  
 with all its mighty Heroes

Thou hast filled all the region with thy greatness yea of a  
 truth there is none other like thee

न यस्य द्यावापृथिवी अनु व्यचो न सिन्धवो रजसो अन्तमानशुः ।  
 नोत स्ववृष्टिं भदे' अस्य युध्यत एको' अन्यत्तकृपे विश्वमानुषक् ॥

I-52-14

Heaven and Earth cannot in their farthest reach touch even the fringe of Thy vastness, Space and Ocean span not even the tiniest fraction of Thy greatness, nor can they all combined, contain the bounties showered by Him when He, with joyous animation, fights as their comrade in battle. Indeed, Thou hast the whole Universe and every part of it under Thy sovereign sway

WILSON

Thou, Indra, of whom heaven and earth have not attained the amplitude, of whom the waters of heaven have not reached the limit, of whom, when warring with excited animation against the withholder of the rains, (his adversaries have not equalled the prowess), thou alone hast made everything else, (than thyself), dependent (upon thee)

GRIFITH

Whose amplitude the heaven and earth have not attained,  
 whose bounds the waters of mid-air have never reached,—

Not, when in joy, he fights the stayer of the rain thou, and  
 none else hast made all things in order due

न्यू१पु वाचं प्र मेहे मे॒रामहे॒ गिर॒ इन्द्रा॑य॒ सदे॒ने वि॒वस्व॑तः ।  
 नू चि॒द्धि रत्नं॑ स॒सतामि॒वावि॑दन्न दु॒ष्टुति॑द्रवि॒णोदे॒षु शस्य॑ते ॥

I-53-1

From the depths of our heart we sing a full-voiced anthem to God Omnipotent, residing in the Sun's abode Does He not bestow, even when we are wrapped in slumber, happiness ineffable! Lip-homage and half-hearted praise are never commendable towards our benefactors

WILSON

We ever offer fitting praise to the mighty Indra, in the dwelling of the worshipper, by which he (the deity) has quickly acquired riches, as (a thief) hastily carries (off the property) of the sleeping Praise ill-expressed ■ not valued among the munificent

GRIFFITH

We will present fair praise unto the Mighty One, our hymns to Indra in Vivaswan's dwelling-place,

For he hath never found wealth in those who seem to sleep, those who give wealth to men accept no paltry praise

य उ॒द॒चीन्द्र दे॒वगो॑षाः सु॒खाय॑स्ते शिव॒तेमा॒ असाम  
त्वां स्तो॑षाम॒ त्वया॑ सु॒वीरा॒ द्राघी॑य॒ आरु॑ः प्र॒तरं॒ दधा॑नाः ॥

I-53-11

God Almighty! May we, atleast hereafter, surrender ourselves absolutely to Thee, Most High Lord, may we endeavour to become Thy pious and loyal companions in every way We are bound to adore Thee, seeing that it is through Thy Grace that we are gifted with brave and intrepid sons, that we are blessed with a life, long and prosperous

WILSON

Protected by the gods, we remain, Indra, at the close of the sacrifice, thy most fortunate friends we praise thee, as enjoying through thee excellent offspring, and a long and prosperous life

GRIFFITH

May we protected by the Gods hereafter remain thy very prosperous friends, O Indra

Thee we extol, enjoying through thy favour life long and joyful and with store of heroes

स॒नात्स॒नीळा॒ अ॒वनी॒र॒वा॒ता व्र॒ता र॑क्षन्ते अ॒मृ॒ताः स॒हो॒भिः ।  
 पु॒रु॒ स॒हस्रा॒ ज॒न॒यो न॒ पत्नी॑र्दु॒व॒स्यन्ति॒ स्व॒सारो॒ अ॒ह्या॒णाम् ॥

I-62-10

The sister-Srutis stem from and rest in one and the same source, Brahma, from time immemorial, and they remain unchanged and intact through all eternity. They are the infallible custodians of our culture and wisdom. By virtue of their undying merit (or, inexhaustible greatness) they preserve our sacred traditions in their unnumbered thousands. With loving tendance they serve the Invincible Lord, even as affectionate wives devoutly wait on their husbands.

WILSON

From a remote time the contiguous, unshifting, and unwearied fingers practise with (all) their energies many thousand acts of devotion (towards Indra), and like the wives (of the gods) the protecting sisters worship him who is without shame.

GRIFFITH

Their paths, of old connected, rest uninjured, they with great might preserve the immortal statutes  
 For many thousand holy works the Sisters wait on the haughty Lord like wives and matrons

सनायुवो नमसा नव्यो अर्कैर्वसूयवो मतयो दस्म दद्रुः ।

पतिं न पत्नीरुयतीरुयन्तं स्पृशन्ति त्वा शवसावन्मनीषाः ॥

I-62-11

God, Most Potent, Thou art Beauty itself—Beauty appearing, ever newer and newer Minds in quest of Thee, who art eternal and wealth supreme, ceaselessly strive to attain Thee with toil, salutation and prayer God All Powerful, minds, holy and all-bright, cling to Thee as a loving wife cleaves to her beloved lord

WILSON

Beautiful Indra, who art to be praised with holy hymns, the pious who are desirous of holy rites, those who are anxious for riches, and those who are wise, repair to thee with veneration: powerful Indra, their minds adhere to thee, as affectionate wives to a loving husband

GRIFITH.

Thoughts ancient, seeking wealth with adoration, with newest lauds have sped to thee, O Mighty.

As yearning wives cleave to their yearning husband, so cleave our hymns to thee, O Lord most potent.



च॒र्कृत्ये॑ मरुतः पृ॒त्सु दु॒ष्टं॑ द्यु॒मन्तं॑ शु॒ष्मं॑ भ॒वत्सु॑ धत्तन ।  
 धन॒स्पृ॒तमु॒क्थ्ये॑ वि॒श्वच॑र्षणि॒ तोक॑ पु॒ण्ये॒म॒ तन॑यं श॒त हि॒माः ॥

I-64-14

Bestow upon your worshippers, O ye Maruts, long-lived (living a hundred years and more) sons and grandsons, whose lives will be a ceaseless dedication to offices sacred and holy, stalwart sons and grandsons endowed with spiritual radiance, invincible in battle and undaunted by formidable odds, pledged to their resources' farthest limit, to make others happy-verily citizens of the world, most worthy of praise Rejoice indeed we shall, by this grace of yours.

WILSON

Maruts, grant to your wealthy (worshippers a son) eminent for good works, invincible in battle, illustrious, the annihilator (of his adversaries), the seizer of wealth, the deserver of praise, and all discerning, may we cherish such a son and such a grandson for a hundred winters

GRIFFITH

O Maruts, to the worshippers give glorious strength, invincible in battle, brilliant, bringing wealth,

Praiseworthy, known to all men May we foster well, during a hundred winters, son and progeny

MAX MÜLLER

Give, O Maruts, to our Lords strength glorious, invincible //

H. R. S

batle, brilliant, wealth-acquiring, praise-worthy, known to all men Let us foster our kith and kin during a hundred winters

The difficulty of this verse arises from the uncertainty whether the epithets *Dhanaspritam*, *ukthyām*, and *visvākarshanam* belong to *sushma*, strength, or to *toka*, kith and kin Roth and Benfey connect them with *toka* Now *dhanaspriti* is applicable to *toka*, yet it never occurs joined with *toka* again, while it is used with *sushma*, VI-19-8 *Ukthyā*, literally, to be praised with hymns, is not used again as an epithet of *toka*, though it is quite appropriate to any gift of the gods Lastly, *Visvākarshanam* is never applied to *toka*, while it is an epithet used, if not exactly of the strength, *sushma*, given by the Gods, yet of the fame given by them

The only intelligible meaning I can suggest for these words is, known to all men, originally, belonging to, reaching to all men, as we say, world-wide or European fame, meaning by it fame extending over the whole of Europe, or over the whole world If *Indra*, *Agni*, and the *Maruts* are called by these names, they mean, as far as I can judge, known, worshipped by all men Benfey translates allverstandig.

नू ष्ठिरं मरुतो वीरिवन्तमृतीयाहं रयिमस्यासु घत्त ।  
 सहस्रिणं शतिनं शूशुर्वासं प्रातर्मद्घ्रु धियावसुर्जगम्यात् ॥

I-64-15

Bestow upon your worshipper, O ye Maruts, that wealth *per excellence*, namely a son, steadily righteous, extraordinarily valiant, ever-victorious over adversaries and triumphant over odds, a son who would verily be one in hundreds or one in thousands, may he, prayerfully beseeching the grace of gods, start for his duty quite early in the morning, punctually and without fail

WILSON

Grant us, Maruts, durable riches, attended by posterity, and mortifying to our enemies, (riches) reckoned by hundreds and thousands, and ever increasing, may they who have acquired wealth by pious acts, come hither quickly in the morning

GRITITH

Will ye then, O ye Maruts, grant us riches, durable, rich in men, defying onslaught,

A hundred, thousandfold, ever increasing?

May he enriched with prayer, come soon and early

MAX MÜLLER

Will you then, O Maruts, grant unto us wealth, durable, rich in men, defying all onslaughts? Wealth a hundred and a thousandfold always increasing? May he who is rich in prayers (the host of the Maruts) come early and soon

द्वे विरूपे चरतः स्वर्गे' अन्यान्या वत्समुप' धापयेते ।

हरि'रन्यस्यां भवति स्वधावा'ञ्छुको' अन्यस्यां' ददशे सुवर्चा': ॥

I-95-1

Two philosophies diametrically opposed in their conception and construction, are current in this world,—heading for their respective goals, they inspire and impel their votaries, each in its own way. In the one, the self-sovereign, Blissful Hari looms large, in the other, the glittering, showy tinsel greets our eye at every turn.

WILSON

Two periods of different complexions, revolve for their own purposes, and each in succession severally nourishes a son, in one, Hari is the receiver of oblations, in the other, the brilliant Agni is beheld.

GRISTITH

To fair goals travel Two unlike in semblance each in succession nourishes an infant.

One bears a Godlike Babe of golden colour bright and fair-shining is he with the other.

OLDENBERG

Two (sisters) of different shapes wander along, pursuing a good aim. The one and the other suckles the calf. With the one (the calf) is golden, moving according to its wont. With the other it is seen clear, full of fine splendour.

त्रीणि जाना परि' मूपन्त्यस्य समुद्र एकं दिव्येकमप्सु ।  
 पूर्वामनु प्र दिशं पारिवानामृतृन्प्रशासद्दि दधावनुष्ठु ॥

I-95-3

Profoundly inspiring is the threefold emergence, into our consciousness, of God, while we contemplate the unfathomable depth of the sea, the infinite vastitude of stellar space and the inscrutable mystery of our actions. How wondrously has God divided space into the east and other quarters, and magnificently marked out the several seasons of the year, for the benefit of living beings.

WILSON

They contemplate three places of his birth, one in the ocean, one in the heaven, one in the firmament, and dividing the seasons of the year for the benefit of earthly creatures, he formed, in regular succession, the eastern quarter.

GRIFITH

Three several places of his birth they honour, in mid-air, in the heaven, and in the waters.

Governing in the east of earthly regions, the seasons hath he established in their order.

OLDENBURG

They celebrate his three births: one in the sea, one in heaven, one in the waters. In the eastern region he commanding determines the sea and of the dwellers on earth by his present power.

क इमं वो' निष्यमा चिकेत वत्सो मातृर्जनयत स्वधाभिः ।  
वह्नीनां गर्भो' अपसामुपस्थान्महान्कविर्निश्चरति स्वधावान् ॥

I-95-4

Who knows this riddle—that the son begets his parents by his self-dedication? The great, omniscient and independent *Fons et origo* of all rises on the horizon of our inner perception through our deep devotions

WILSON

Which of you discerns the hidden Agni? a son, he begets his mothers by oblations, the germ of many (waters), he issues from the ocean, mighty and wise, the recipient of oblations

GRIFFITH

Who of you knows this secret One? The Infant by his own nature hath brought forth his Mothers

The germ of many, from the water's bosom he goes forth wise and great of God-like nature

OLDENBERG

Who among you has understood this hidden (god)? The calf has by itself given birth to its mothers The germ of many (mothers), the great seer, moving by his own strength, comes forward from the lap of the active ones

आविष्टेयो वर्धते चारुसु जिज्ञानामूर्ध्वः स्वयंशा उपस्थे ।  
 उभे त्वष्टुर्विभ्यतुर्जायमात्प्रतीची सिंह प्रति जोषयेते ॥

I-25-5

The God most lovely, most renowned, who is beyond the crooked, manifests Himself with increasing vividness in and through acts of unshakable faith. When He, the Author of the Cosmos, appeared with dazzling refulgence, all heavenly and earthly beings trembled with awesome fear, but, approaching that Lion-God with great reverence they serve and please Him in every possible way.

WILSON

Appearing amongst them (the waters), the bright shining (Agni) increases, rising above the flanks of the waving waters, spreading his own renown both (heaven and earth) are alarmed, as the radiant Agni is born, and approaching the lion, they pay him honour.

GRIMM

Visible, fair, he grows in native brightness uplifted in the lap of waving waters.

When he was born both Tvashtar's worlds were frightened they turn to him and reverence the lion.

OLDENBERG

The fair (child Agni) grows up visibly in them in his own

glory, standing erect in the lap of the down-streaming (waters)  
Both (Heaven and Earth) fled away in fear of (the son of) Tvash-  
*tri*, when he was born, but turning back they caress the lion



उ॒मे म॒द्रे जौ॑ष्ये॒ते न मे॒ने गा॒वो न वा॒श्रा उ॒प तस्यो॑र॒वेः ।  
 स दक्षो॑णां दक्ष॑पतिर्वभू॒वाञ्जान्ति॑ यं दक्षि॑णतो ह॒विर्भिः॑ ॥

1-95-6

The blessed ones of Heaven and Earth wait upon and serve Him in every way like two dutiful maids of honour, they hie unto Him with great love, as cows run in pursuit of their calves He has ever been the mightiest of the mighty Please Him they can only with sacrifice absolute and genuine

WILSON

Both the auspicious ones (day and night) wait upon him like two female attendants, as lowing kine (follow their calves) by the paths (they have gone), he has been the lord of might among the mighty, whom (the priests) on the right (of the altar) anoint

GRIFFITH

The two auspicious Ones, like women, tend him : like lowing cows they seek him in their manner

He is the Lord of Might among the mighty, him, on the right, they balm with their oblations

OLDENBERG

They caress him both, like two kind women, like lowing cows they have approached him in their own way He has become the lord of all powers, he whom they anoint with sacrificial gifts from the right side

उद्येयमीति सवितेव वाह उमे सिचौ यतते भीम रुज्जन् ।  
 उच्छ्रुमत्कमजते मिमस्मान्नरा मानृभ्यो वसना जहाति ॥

1-95-7

Like the true father that He is, He extends His helping hand to all (His creation) The Almighty is intent on bettering Heaven and earth, which have dropped from Him (i.e. which are born of Him) While He radiates His effulgence He receives newer and newer vesture—vesture that varies with every devotee compre- hending Him ✓

WILSON

Like the sun, he stretches forth his arms, and the formidable Agni, decorating both heaven and earth (with brightness), labours (in his duties), he draws up from everything the essential (moisture), and clothes (the earth) with new vestments (derived from his maternal (rains)

GRIFFITH

Like Savitar his arms with might he stretches, awful he strives grasping the world's two borders

He forces out from all a brilliant vesture, yea, from his Mothers draws he forth new raiment

OLDENBERG

He raises his arms again and again like Savitar He the terrible pressing on ranges both wings (of his arms) He raves up his bright vesture from himself alone He gives new garments to his mothers

त्वे॒प॒ रू॒प॒ कृ॒णु॒त॒ उत्त॑रं॒ यत्सं॑ष्ट॒ञ्चा॒नः॒ स॒र्द॒ने॒ गो॒मि॒रा॒द्भिः॑ ।  
 क॒वि॒र्धु॒ध्नं॑ परि॑ म॒र्म॒ज्य॒ते॒ घीः॒ सा॒ दे॒वता॑ता॒ समि॑ति॒र्ध॒भू॒व ॥

I-95-8

A devotee who combines in himself Scriptural wisdom and selfless activism sees the noblest and most resplendent form of God in his own mind quite vividly. Such a sage sees the whole firmament shining with the radiant presence of God. This meditating mind where God is entrenched, is indeed a marvellous meeting place.

WILSON

Associated in the firmament with the moving waters, he assumes an excellent and lustrous form, and the wise sustainer (of all things) sweeps over the source (of the rains with his radiance), whence a concentration of light is spread abroad by the sportive deity.

GRITTIN

He makes him a most noble form of splendour, decking him in his home with milk and waters.

The Sage adorns the depths of air with wisdom: this is the meeting where the Gods are worshipped.

OLINEREG

He assumes his fierce appearance which is above (i.e. the lightning), being united with the cows, the waters in his seat. The prayer purifies the bottom of the seer (?). This was the meeting among the gods.

विष्णोर्नु कं वीर्याणि प्र वोचं यः पार्थिवानि विममे रजांसि ।  
 यो अस्कमयादुत्तरं स्रवस्यं विचक्रमाणस्त्रेधोरुगायः ॥

I-154-1

What man, be he even one with the genius to count up the dust-particles of the earth, can reckon up the (unimaginable) glories of the All-pervading Vishnu, universally hymned, who holds aloft the Heaven of Heavens and who bestrode (the whole cosmos) in three paces?

WILSON.

Earnestly I glorify the exploits of Vishnu, who made the three worlds; who sustained the lofty aggregate site (of the spheres); thrice traversing (the whole), who is praised by the exalted

GRIFFITH.

I will declare the mighty deeds of Vishnu, of him who measured out the earthly regions,

Who propped the highest place of congregation, thrice setting down his footstep, widely striding

MACDONELL:

I will now proclaim the heroic powers of Visnu, who has measured out the terrestrial regions; who established the upper gathering-place, having, wide-paced, strode out triply.

प्र तद्विष्णुं स्तवते वीर्येण मृगो न भीमः कुंचरो गिरिष्ठः ।  
 यस्योरुषु त्रिषु विक्रमेण प्वधि क्षियान्ति भुवनानि विश्वा ॥

[ 154 2

That Vishnu in respect of His titanic valour is glorified with the greatest fervour as a lion of unequalled might though He is set forth (as the highest God) in the Vedas (gin) He takes a visible form and stalks and ranges over all this earth. These multitudinous worlds are beyond measure outspanned by His three vast strides

WILSON

Vishnu is therefore glorified that by his prowess he is like a fearful ravenous and mountain haunting wild beast and because of that in his three paces all worlds abide

प्र विष्णवे शुषमेतु मन्म गिरिक्षित उरुगायाय वृष्णे ।  
 य इदं दीर्घं प्रयतं सद्यस्यमेको विममे त्रिभिरित्पदेभिः ॥

I-154-3

May my prayer, without any further thought, go to Vishnu, the central and common theme of all the sacred hymns, who is sung by the greatest of the great as the showerer of the choicest bounties. He reached out far beyond that world, the holiest and the highest, with but three steps.

WILSON

May acceptable vigour attend Vishnu, who abides in prayer, the hymned of many, the showerer (of benefits), who alone made, by three steps, this spacious and durable aggregate (of the three worlds)

GRIFFITH

Let the hymn lift itself as strength to Vishnu, the Bull far-striding, dwelling on the mountains,

Him who alone with triple step hath measured this common dwelling-place, long, far-extended

MACDONELL

Let my inspiring hymn go forth for Visnu, the mountain-dwelling wide-pacing bull, who alone with but three steps has measured out this long far-extended gathering-place.

यस्य त्री पूर्णा मधुना पदान्यक्षीयमाणा स्वधया मदन्ति ।  
 य उ त्रिधातु पृथिवीमुत दामेको दाधार सुवनानि विश्वा ॥

I-154-4

He alone, whose three prime abodes—all supernal and impenshable—overflow with bliss and freedom, holds under His absolute sway the triple-stranded Prakriti, this earth, yonder Heaven, and all the other worlds.

WILSON

Whose three imperishable paces, filled with ambrosia, delight (mankind) with sacred food: who verily alone upholds the three elements, and earth and heaven.

GRIFFITH

Him whose three places that are filled with sweetness, imperishable, joy as it may list them,  
 who verily alone upholds the threefold, the earth, the heaven,  
 and all living creatures

MACDONELL

Whose three steps filled with mead, unfailing, rejoice in bliss;  
 and who in threefold wise alone has supported earth and heaven,  
 and all beings

तदस्य प्रियममि पाद्यो अश्यां नरो यत्र देवयवो गर्दन्ति ।  
 उरुक्रमस्य स हि वन्द्युरित्या विष्णोः पदे परमे मध्व उत्सः ॥

I-154-5

May I attain to that world so dear unto Him, where the very flower of His most ardent devotees dwell in ecstatic joy, in that supreme realm of Vishnu, the Great Bestrider, we have ever-bubbling founts of bliss, this is why Vishnu is to us the nearest of kin

WILSON

May I attain his favourite path, in which god-seeking men delight, (the path) of that wide stepping Vishnu, in whose exalted station there is a (perpetual, flow of felicity, for to such a degree ■ he the friend (of the pious)

GRIFFITH

May I attain to that his well-loved mansion where men devoted to the gods are happy

For there springs, close akin to the Wide-Strider, the well of meath in Vishnu's highest footstep

GELDER, KAEGI AND ROTH

Where men devout in blessedness are dwelling,  
 Where life to life succeeds for righteous spirits,  
 And each is fuller than the last in beauty



MACDONELL:

*I would attain to that dear domain of his, where men devoted  
to the gods rejoice for that, truly akin to the wide-strider, in a  
well of mead in the highest step of Visnu*

ता वां वास्तू<sup>१</sup>न्युस्मसि<sup>२</sup> गम<sup>३</sup>ष्यै यत्र गावो भूरि<sup>४</sup>शृङ्गा अयासः<sup>५</sup> ।  
 अत्राह तदुरुगायस्य<sup>६</sup> वृष्णः<sup>७</sup> परमं पदमव<sup>८</sup> गाति<sup>९</sup> भूरि<sup>१०</sup> ॥

I-154-6

May we all yearn and strive to reach those highest worlds which are flooded with light outstreaming in all directions and illumining Truth in its infinitude, here it is that the supreme, boundless mansion of all-glorious Vishnu our greatest Benefactor, shines with limitless splendour

WILSON

We pray (to Vishnu) that you may both go to those regions where the many-pointed and wide-spreading rays (of light expand), for here the supreme station of the many-hymned, the showerer (of benefits), shines (with) great (splendour)

GRIFFITH

Fain would we go unto your dwelling-places where there are many-horned and nimble oxen,

For mightily, there, shineth down upon us the widely-striding Bull's sublimest mansion

MACDONELL

We desire to go to those abodes of you two, where are the many-horned nimble kine there indeed that highest step of the wide-pacing bull shines brightly down

द्वादशारं नहि तज्जराय वर्वति चक्रं परि दामृतस्य ।

आ पुत्रा अग्ने मिथुनासो अत्र सप्त शतानि<sup>1</sup> विशतिश्च तस्थुः ॥

I-164-II

Thus wheel of eternal Time, with its twelve spokes, which knows no decay, perpetually revolves round the high heavens  
O Agni, seven hundred and twenty are the twinned offspring that comprise this (ever revolving) wheel

WILSON

The twelve-spoked wheel of the true (sun) revolves round the heavens, and never (tends) to decay seven hundred and twenty children in pairs, Agni, abide in it

GRIFFITH

Formed with twelve spokes, by length of time unweakened,  
rolls round the heaven this wheel of duning Order

Herein established, joined in pairs together, seven hundred  
Sons and twenty stand, O Agni

द्वा सु॒पर्णा॑ सु॒युजा॑ सखा॒या स॒मानं॑ वृ॒क्षं परि॑ प॒स्वजते॑ ।  
तयो॑र॒न्यः पि॒ष्वलं॑ स्वा॒द्वत्त्यन॑श्च॒न्नन्यो॑ अ॒मि चा॑क॒शीति॑ ॥

I-164-20

Two birds, of lovely plumage, ever staying together, knit in bonds of love, have the same tree as their abode; one of the twain eats the seemingly delicious fig, the other eats it not, immersed as it is in the radiance of its own bliss

WILSON

Two birds associated together, and mutual friends, take refuge in the same tree, one of them eats the sweet fig, the other, abstaining from food, merely looks on

GRITTILL:

Two birds with fair wings, knit with bonds of friendship, in the same sheltering tree have found a refuge

One of the twain eats the sweet Fig-tree's fruitage; the other eating not regardeth only.

सप्तार्ध'गर्भा भुवनस्य रेतो विष्णोस्तिष्ठन्ति प्रदिशा विधर्मणि ।  
 ते धीतिभिर्मनसा ते विपश्चितः परिभुवः परि' भवन्ति विश्वतः ॥

1-164-36

The seven principles (Mahat, Ahamkara, and the five gross elements), which are the essential constituents, holding in their embryo this vast and varied Universe, are sustaining it in manifold ways, in strict obedience to Vishnu's ordinance. The Intelligences presiding over them, though far superior to the universe, encompass and guard it in every possible way with the powers of their body and mind.

WILSON:

The seven (sustaining), the embryo (rain) for half a year, the fecundating (element) of the world, abide, by appointment, in the various functions of Vishnu. By their intelligence they pervade in thought all around (them), for they are intelligent and diffusive.

रुचो अक्षरे' परमे व्योमन्यस्मिन्देवा अधि विश्वे' निषेदुः ।

यस्तन्न वेद किमृचा करिष्यति य इत्ताद्विदुस्त इमे समासते ॥

I-164-39

The Supreme Being, imperishable and all-pervasive, in whom reside all the gods, and to whom they are entirely subject, is the central theme of Rig Veda. For the man who knows not Him what use is the Rig Veda? Those alone attain true Happiness who know Him.

WILSON

All the gods have taken their seats upon this supreme heaven, the imperishable (text) of the *Veda* what will he, who knows not this, do with the *Veda*? but they who do know it, they are perfect

GRIFFITH

Upon what syllable of holy praise-song, as 'twere their highest heaven, the Gods repose them,—

Who knows not this, what will he do with praise-song? But they who know it well sit here assembled

गौरीमि'भाय सलिलानि तक्षत्येकपदी द्विपदी सा चतुष्पदी ।  
अष्टापदी नवपदी बभूवुषी' सहस्राक्षरा परमे व्यो'मन् ॥

1-164-41

The sacred, infallible *Smṛiti* is as pervasive as the Omnipresent God Whether it consists of one word, two words, four words, eight words, or nine words, or thousand words, it is laden with water (i e it is pregnant with deep meaning)

WILSON

The sound (of the clouds) has been uttered, fabricating the waters, and being one-footed, two-footed, four-footed, eight-footed, nine-footed, or infinite in the highest heaven

GRIFFITH

Forming the water-floods, the buffalo hath lowed, one-footed or two-footed or four-footed, she,

Who hath become eight footed or hath got nine feet, the thousand syllabled in the sublimest heaven

तस्याः समुद्रा अ॒धि वि क्ष॑रन्ति तेन जीवन्ति प्र॒दि॒शश्च॑तस्रः ।  
ततः क्षर॑त्यक्षरं तद्वि॒श्वमु॑प जीवति ॥

I-164-42

It is from her that vast oceans of scriptures have sprung up; it is through her that all the four quarters are full of life. From her, indeed, the imperishable god unfolds Himself, and from Him, in very truth, the Universe draws its sustenance.

WILSON:

From her the clouds shed abundant rain, and thence (the people of) the four quarters live: thence the moisture spreads (to the grain), and the universe exists.

GRIFFITH:

From her descend in streams the seas of water; thereby the world's four regions have their being.

Thence flows the imperishable flood, and thence the universe hath life.



इन्द्रं मित्रं वरुणमग्निमाहु रथो<sup>1</sup> दिव्यः स सुपर्णो गरुत्मान् ।  
एकं सद्विप्रा बहुधा वदन्त्यग्निं यमं मातरिश्वानमाहुः ॥

I-164-46

Seers call that One Supreme Reality, our Sovereign Guide, by various names—such as, Indra, Mitra, Varuna, Agni, Garutman the heavenly bird of beauteous plumage, Yama and Matarishwan

WILSON

They have styled (him, the Sun), Indra, Mitra, Varuna, Agni, and he is the celestial, well-winged *Garutmat*, for learned persons call one by many names as they speak of Agni, Yama, Matarishwan

GRIFFITH

They call him Indra, Mitra, Varuna, Agni, and he is heavenly nobly-winged Garutman

To what is One, sages give many a title they call it Agni, Yama, Matarisvan

EDGERTON

They call it Indra, Mitra, Varuna, Fire (Agni) or it is the heavenly Sun-bird That which is one (neuter gender) the seers speak of in various terms, they call it Fire, Yama, Matarisman

*Selections from  
Mandala II*

त्वमग्ने धुमिस्त्वमाशुशुक्षणिस्त्वमद्भ्यस्त्वमश्मनस्परि ।

त्वं वनेभ्यस्त्वमोषधीभ्यस्त्वं नृणां नृपते जायसे शुचिः ॥

II-I-1

O Agni, our Guide Supreme, Lord of men, Thou shinest with resplendence, and in Thy devotees Thou dost manifest Thyself in Thy all-pure form, in waters, in stones, in forests and in herbs

WILSON:

Sovereign of men, Agni, thou art born for the days (of sacrifice), pure and all-irradiating, from the waters, from the stones, from trees, and from plants

GRIFFITHS:

Thou, Agni, shining in thy glory through the days, art brought to life from out the waters, from the stone

From out the forest trees and herbs that grow on ground thou, Sovran Lord of men, art generated pure.

इन्द्र॒ श्रेष्ठा॑नि॒ द्रवि॑णानि॒ धेहि॒ चि॒त्तिं द॒र्श॑स्य सु॒भग॑त्वम॒स्मे ।  
 पोषं॑ र॒थी॒णाम॑रि॒ष्टिं त॒नूनां॑ स्वा॒द्यानं॑ वा॒चः सु॑दिन॒त्वम॒हाम् ॥

II-21-6,

Bestow upon us, Almighty, riches truly prizable, the sense of responsibility of conscientious men, and withal a gracious presence, let us increase our riches and resources Grant us the best of health, sweetness of speech and moving eloquence, may all our days be bright and happy

WILSON

Indra, bestow upon us most excellent treasures, (give us) the reputation of ability (to celebrate sacred rites), grant us prosperity, increase of wealth, security of person, sweetness of speech, and auspiciousness of days

GRIFFITH

Indra, bestow on us the best of treasures, the spirit of ability and fortune,

Increase of riches, safety of our bodies, charm of sweet speech and days of pleasant weather

GILDNER, KARCI, ROTH

"Grant me, O God, the highest, best of treasures,  
 A judging mind, prosperity abiding,  
 Riches abundant, lasting health of body,  
 The grace of eloquence, and days propitious"

सुनीतिमिर्नयसि त्रायसे जनं यस्तुभ्यं दाशन्न तमोहा अश्वत् ।  
 ब्रह्मद्विपस्त्वपनो मन्युमीरसि बृहस्पते महि तत्ते महित्वनम् ॥

II-23-4

Bṛihaspati, Thou leadest us along right lines and preservest all men. No sin, no dread, no distress will ever overtake the man who surrenders himself to Thee. Thou dost punish the ungodly and quell their anger. That supreme greatness of Thine baffles praise.

WILSON:

Thou leadest men, Bṛihaspati, by virtuous instructions; thou preservest them (from calamity); sin will never overtake him who presents (offerings) to thee; thou art the afflicter of him who hates (holy) prayers; thou art the punisher of wrath; such is thy great mightiness.

GRIFFITH:

Thou leadest with good guidance and preservest men; distress overtakes not him who offers gifts to thee,

Him who hates prayer thou punishest, Bṛihaspati, quelling his wrath; herein is thy great mightiness.

न तमं॒हो न दुः॒रितं॒ कुतश्च॒न नारा॑तयस्ति॒तिरु॒र्न द्र॒यावि॒नः ।

विश्वा॒ इद॑स्माद्घ्व॒रसो॒ वि बा॑धसे॒ यं सु॑गो॒पा रक्ष॑सि ब्रह्म॒णस्प॑ते ॥५॥

II-23-5

No sin, no distress from any quarter, no enemies, no double-dealing 'friends', can ever overcome your devotee, O Brahmanaspati, Thou drivest away all dangerous elements from the path of him, whom Thou protectest with tender care

WILSON

The man whom thou, Brahmanaspati, a kind protector, defendest, neither sorrow nor sin, nor adversaries, nor dissemblers ever harm, for thou drivest away from him all injurious (things)

GRIFFITH

No sorrow, no distress from any side, no foes, no creatures double-tongued have overcome the man,—

Thou drivest all seductive fiends away from him whom, careful guard, thou keepest, Brahmanaspati

त्वं नो' गोपाः पथि॒कृद्दि॑चक्षु॒णस्त॑र्व व्र॒तार्य॑ ग॒तिभि॑र्ज॒रामहे॑ ।

वृ॒हस्प॑ते यो नो' अ॒मि ह॒रो द॒धे स्वा॑ तं म॑र्म॒र्तु दु॒च्छुना॑ ह॒रस्व॑ती ॥

II-23-6

Bṛhaspati, Thou art our Saviour; Thou settest us on the right path; may we grow old in manifold wisdom in order that we can serve Thee best. may the rank delusion of the man who spins our perilous sophistries to inveigle us into wrong paths die down within him.

WILSON:

Thou, Bṛhaspati, art our protector, and the guide of (our) path; (thou art) the discernor (of all things): we worship with praises for thy adoration: may his own precipitate malice involve him (in destruction) who practises deceit against us.

GRIFFITH.

Thou art our keeper, wise, preparer of our paths: we, for thy service, sing to thee with hymns of praise.

Bṛhaspati, whoever lays a snare for us, him may his evil fate, precipitate, destroy.

उ॒त वा॒ यो नो॑ म॒र्चया॒दना॑गसोऽराती॒वा र्म॑तः सानु॒को वृ॒कः ।  
 बृ॒ह॒स्प॒ते अ॒प तं॑ व॒र्तया॒ प॒थः सु॒गं नो॑ अ॒स्यै दे॒वो॑ तये कृधि ॥

II-23-7

Lord, Greatest of the great, keep him away from our path—the fiendish shark who, with implacable rancour, tortures us despite our innocence, carve out for us the safe and smooth road to divine Happiness

WILSON

Turn aside from (the true) path, Brihaspati, the arrogant and savage man who advances to injure us, although unoffending, and keep us in the right way for (the completion of) this offering to the gods

GRIFFITH

Him, too, who threatens us without offence of ours, the evil-minded, arrogant, rapacious man,—

Him, turn thou from our path away, Brihaspati give us fair access to this banquet of the gods



त्वया हितमर्प्यमप्सु मागं धन्वान्वा मृगयसो वि तस्थुः ।

वनानि विभ्यो नक्तिरस्य तानि व्रता देवस्य सवितुर्मिनन्ति ॥

II-38-71

Wild beasts roaming the desert in search of water are refreshed by the thirst-allaying property with which you have endowed it Woods are there for birds None can break the dispensations of God Savitar, the Creator

WILSON

The animals search in dry places for the watery element which has been collected in the firmament by thee, the woods are assigned (by thee) to the birds no one obstructs these functions of the divine Savitar.

GRIFFITH.

The wild beasts spread through desert places seeking their watery share which thou hast set in waters

The woods are given to the birds . These statutes of the God Savitar none disobeyeth.

*Note:* Savitar provides for the wild beasts of the desert and for the birds of the air.

न यस्येन्द्रो वरुणो न मित्रो ब्रतमर्यमा न भिनान्ति रुद्रः ।  
 नारातयस्तमिदं स्वस्ति हुवे देवं सवितारं नमोभिः ॥

II-38-9

With reverent prostrations I pray to God Savitar, our Creator, whose ordainments no god—be he Indra, Varuna, Mitra, Aryaman, Rudra—nor any demon, can ever infringe.

WILSON:

I invite to this place, with reverential salutations, for my good, that divine Savitar, whose functions neither Indra, nor Varuna, nor Mitra, nor Aryaman, nor Rudra, nor the enemies (of the gods) impede.

GRIFFITH.

Him whose high law not Varuna nor Indra, not Mitra, Aryaman, nor Rudra breaketh,

Nor evil-hearted fiends, here for my welfare him I invoke,  
 God Savitar, with worship.

मगं वियं वाजयन्तः पुरन्धि नराशंसो ग्रासतिर्नो अय्याः ।  
 आये वामस्य सङ्गये रयीणां प्रिया देवस्य सवितुः स्याम ॥

II-38-10

May God (Savitar), the Guardian of the Vedas, the adored of saints, bless our endeavours to better our lot, to expand our sphere of activities and grow in wisdom, let us stay dear unto Him (i.e. may His Grace be with us) at all times—whether they be of joy or sorrow, plenty or penury.

WILSON.

May he, who is adored by men, the protector of the wives (of the gods), preserve us, when worshipping him who is auspicious, the object of meditation, and the all-wise: may we be the beloved of the divine Savitr, that we may (thence be successful) in the accumulation of wealth and the acquisition of cattle.

GRIMM:

May they who strengthen bliss, and thought and wisdom, and the Dames' Lord and Narasansa aid us,

That good may come to us and wealth be gathered, may we be Savitar the God's beloved.



अ॒स्मभ्य॒ तद्दि॒वो अ॒द्भ्यः॒ पृथि॒व्यास्त्वया॒ दत्तं॒ काम्यं॒ राघं॒ आ गात् ।  
 श॒ यत्स्तो॒तृभ्य॒ आप॒ये भवा॑त्यु॒रुश॒साय॒ सवि॑त॒र्जरि॒त्रे ॥

II-38-II

Let mundane wealth, gifted us by Thee and desirable in its own way wealth stemming from the heavens, the waters and the earth—be ours (or not), but *most certainly*, may that bliss vouchsafed to devotees and poets who ardently hymn Thee, be ours at all times

WILSON

May that desirable wealth which is granted to us Savitr by thee, proceed from the sky, from the waters, from the earth, and may the happiness (which belongs) to the race of those who eulogise thee, devolve upon me, repeating diligently thy praises

GRANT

So come to us our hearts desire, the bounty bestowed by thee, from heaven and earth and waters

That it be well with friends and those who praise thee, and Savitar, with the loudlauding singer

इन्द्रो अ॒ङ्ग॒ मह॒ङ्ग॒य॒म॒भी प॒द॒र्ष॒ सु॒च्य॒वत् । स हि स्ति॒रो वि॒च॒र्ष॒णिः ॥

II-41-10

May the Almighty avert all dire calamities that are imminent  
He indeed ■ invincible and all-knowing.

WILSON.

May Indra dissipate all great and overpowering danger,  
for he is resolute, and the beholder of all

GRIFFITH.

Verily Indra, conquering all, driveth even mighty fear away,  
For firm is he and swift to act.

इन्द्रश्च मृळ्याति नो न नः पश्चादघं नक्षत् । मद्रं भवाति नः पुरः ॥

II-41-II

If Indra protects us no harm would pursue us from behind,  
and all good things will be in store for us.

WILSON:

*If Indra provide for our happiness, evil will not come behind  
us, good will be before us*

GRIFFITH:

Indra, be gracious unto us: sin shall not reach us afterward,  
And good shall be before us still.

इन्द्र आशाग्यस्परि सर्वाभ्यो अमयं करतू । जेता शत्रून्विचर्षणिः ॥

II-41-12

May the omniscient God, the vanquisher of all foes, make us safe and secure against dangers from any quarter

WILSON

Let Indra, the beholder of all, the conqueror of foes, send us security from all quarters

GRIFFITH

From all the regions of the world let Indra send security,  
The foe subduer, swift to act

*Selections from  
Mandala III*



ई॒ळे' च त्वा य॒ज॒मानो ह॒विर्भिरी॒ळे' सखि॒त्वं सु॒म॒तिं नि॒कामः ।  
 दे॒वैर॒वो' मिमी॒हि सं ज॒रि॒त्रे रक्षां च नो द॒म्ये'मि॒रनी॒कैः ॥

III-1-15

I sing Thy glories while I worship Thee with sacrifices I  
 praise Thee with a deep longing for Thy company and Thy  
good will Grant Thy protecting grace to me who laud Thee,  
 even as Thou dost to divine beings Deign to save me from  
 the legion of inner foes yet to be subdued.

WILSON.

I, the institutor of the rite, worship thee with oblations  
 desirous of thy favour, I implore thy friendship: grant, along  
 with the gods, protection to him who praises thee, preserve us  
 with thy well-regulated rays

GRIFFITH:

I sacrificing serve thee with oblations and crave with longing  
 thy good-will and friendship

Grant, with the Gods, thy grace to him who lauds thee, protect  
 us with thy rays that guard the homestead

OLDENBERG:

I magnify thee, worshipping thee with offerings; I magnify  
 (thee) desirous of thy friendship, of thy favour. Together with  
 the gods give help to him who praises thee, and protect us with  
 thy domestic faces

उपक्षे॒तार॒स्तव॑ सु॒प्रणी॒तिऽग्ने॒ विश्वा॑नि॒ धन्या॒ दधा॑नाः ।  
 सु॒रेत॑सा॒ श्रव॑सा॒ तुल्य॑माना॒ अ॒मि॒ प्या॑म॒ पृतना॑यू॒रदे॑वान् ॥

III-1-16

O gracious God Agni, our best Guide, we own all the choicest things of life, as we fervently prayed for Thy Grace Let us protect the pious with all our power and put down the hosts of godless people

WILSON

Approaching thee, benevolent Agni, and performing all holy acts that are the cause of opulence, offering oblations with earnestness and in abundance, may we overcome the hostile hosts that are without gods

GRIFFITH

May we, O Agni, thou who leadest wisely, thy followers and masters of all treasures,

Strong in the glory of our noble offspring, subdue the godless when they seek the battle

OLDENBERG

As thy followers, O Agni, best leader, winning all precious (treasures), pressing onward with fertile glory, may we overcome the godless who seek to combat us

आ नो<sup>१</sup> गहि स॒स्येभिः<sup>२</sup> शि॒वेभिर्म॒हान्म॒हीभिर्ह॒तिभिः<sup>३</sup> स॒र॒ण्यन् ।  
 व॒स्मे र॒यि च॒हुलं सन्त॑रु॒वं सुवाचं<sup>४</sup> मा॒गं य॒शसं<sup>५</sup> कृ॒वी नः ॥

III-1-19

1) Supreme Agni, speed on to us with pure and exalted love,  
 h priceless blessings, bestow upon us wealth abundant, there-  
 enabling us to tide over all the ills of life; dower us with  
 rming eloquence, good fortune and fair name.

ELSON:

Come to us with friendly, auspicious, and mighty aids, thou  
 ho art great and all-pervading: bestow upon us ample riches,  
 fe from injury, well-spoken of, desirable, and renowned.

IRIFFETH:

Come unto us with thine auspicious friendship, come speeding,  
 Mighty, with thy mighty succours

Grant us abundant wealth that saves from danger, that brings  
 a good repute, a glorious portion

OLDENBERG:

Come to us with thy gracious friendship, speeding, great, with  
 thy great blessings. Bestow on us plentiful victorious wealth;  
 make our share glorious and adorned with fine speech.

चक्रियो विश्वा भुवनामि सांसिद्भिश्चक्रि देवेष्वा दुवः ।  
 आ देवेषु यतत आ सुवीर्य आ श्रस उत नृणाम् ॥

III-16-4

He who fashioned these worlds pervades them He bears with many a lapse of ours and helps the pious in countless ways for the godly He works unceasingly, for the brave in a right cause, for the Teachers of the race

WILSON

He who is the Maker pervades all worlds, he the enduring Maker of all bears our offerings to the gods He is present with the devout (worshippers) and amidst the heroism and the devotions of men

GRIFFITH

He who made all that lives, who passes all in might, who orders service to the Gods,

He works among the Gods, he works in hero strength, yea, also in the praise of men

OLDENBERG

The maker who victoriously (stands) over all beings the maker who makes the praise arrive among the gods he stands firm among the gods, among the host of heroes, firm also in the praise of men.

मा नो' अग्नेऽर्मतये मावीरतायै रीघः ।

मागोतायै सहसस्पुत्र मा निदेऽप द्वेषास्या कृधि ॥

III-16-5

Torture us not, O Agni, Son of Strength, by making us victims to nescience (*avidyā*), by turning us into cravens Doom us not to abject submissiveness and the itch for unbridled captiousness Purge enmity and hatred from us (our hearts)

WILSON

Consign us not, Agni, to malignity, (doom) us not to the absence of posterity, nor, son of strength, to the want of cattle, nor to reproach: drive away (all) animosities

GRIFFITH

Give us not up to indigence, Agni, nor want of hero sons,  
Nor, Son of Strength, to lack of cattle, nor to blame Drive  
thou our enemies away.

OLDENBERG

Give us not up, Agni, to want of thought nor to want of  
heroes nor to want of cows, O son of strength, nor to the  
scoffer. Drive away hostile powers.

अग्निं सुदीतिं सुदृशं गृणन्तो नमस्यामस्त्वेदं जातवेदः ।  
 त्वां दूतमरतिं हव्यवाहं देवा अकृण्वन्नमृतस्य नाभिम् ॥

III-17-4

Omniscient Agni, adorable beyond all, Thee we worship and glorify as self-luminous and passing beautiful Godly souls look upon Thee as their selfless envoy, as their prime source of food here and as the bringer of immortality hereafter

WILSON

Jatavedas, we venerate thee, glorifying the brilliant, beautiful, adorable Agni the gods have made thee their messenger, the disinterested bearer of oblations, the centre of ambrosia

GRIFFITH

Agni most bright and fair with song we honour, yea, the adorable, O Jatavedas

Thee, envoy, messenger, oblation-bearer, the Gods have made the centre of life eternal

OLDENBERG

Praising Agni full of splendour, full of beauty, we adore thee, O Jatavedas, deserving to be magnified Thee the gods have made their messenger, their steward, and carrier of offerings, the navel of immortality

दि॒क्षन्त॑ उ॒पसो॑ याभ॑न्न॒त्तोर्वि॒षस्व॑त्या म॒हि॒ चि॒त्रम॑नी॒कम् ।

वि॒श्वे॑ जान॒न्ति म॒हि॒ना यदा॑गादिन्द्र॒स्य क॑र्म सु॒कृ॒ता पु॒रु॒षि ॥

III-30-13

Men long to behold the great, wondrous light of the sun when  
upsprings the dawn on the passing of night, and, at the advent  
of the dawn, all men realize the unnumbered works of God  
(Indra), good and glorious

WILSON

All men are anxious to behold the great and variegated  
host (of the solar rays) at the issuing of the dawn after the night  
has been displaced, and when the morning has come, they  
recognise the many great and glorious acts of Indra

GRIFFITH

Men gladly in the course of night would look on the broad  
bright front of the refulgent Morning.

And all acknowledge, when she comes in glory, the manifold  
and goodly works of Indra

महि ज्योतिर्निहि' तं वक्ष्णास्वामा पक्वं चरति विग्रती गौः ।  
 विश्वं स्वाद्म सम्भृतमुखियायां यत्सीमिन्द्रो अदधाद्भोजनाय ॥

III-30-14

What effulgence (i.e. milk) is stored in the udders of a cow!  
 No food in herself, the cow even as she moves about bears  
 within her ripe milk. All sweetness is collected in the cow, for  
 God Himself (Indra Himself) has placed it in her for the happy  
 sustenance of all

WILSON

A great light has been shed upon the rivers: the cow yet  
 immature grazes, charged with the ripe (milk), for Indra has  
 placed in the cow all this collected sweetness for food.

GRIFFITH

A mighty splendour rests upon her bosom: bearing ripe  
 milk the Cow, unripe, advances

All sweetness is collected in the Heifer, sweetness which  
 Indra made for our enjoyment



उ॒दृ॒ह॒ रक्षः॑ स॒ह॒मूल॑मिन्द्र वृ॒श्वा म॒घ्यं प्र॒त्य॒ग्रं॑ गृणीहि ।  
 आ की॒र्त॒तः स॒ल॒ल॒कं॑ च॒क॒र्य ब्र॒ह्म॒द्वि॒पे तपु॑षि हे॒ति॒र्म॒स्य ॥

III-30-17

God All-Powerful, root out the entire army of fiendish beings, whether they be at the rear, in the middle, or at the van—extirpate them utterly. Protect the good, whoever they be and wherever they may be; hurl Thy flaming dart at the haters of the Supreme.

WILSON.

Pluck up the *Rakshasas*, Indra, by the root, cut asunder the middle, blight the summit: to whatever remote (regions) thou hast driven the sinner, cast upon the enemy of the *Veda* thy consuming weapon.

GRIFFITH:

Root up the race of *Rakshasas*, O Indra; rend it in front and crush it in the middle.

How long hast thou behaved as one who wavers? Cast thy hot dart at him who hates devotion.

स॒तः स॒तः प्र॒ति॒मा॒नं पु॒रो॒मूर्वि॒श्वं वे॒द ज॒नि॒मा ह॒न्ति शु॒ष्णम् ।

अ॒णो दि॒वः प॒द॒वीर्ग॒व्युर॒र्च॒न्त॒स्त्रा स॒खीर॑मु॒च्च॒न्निर॑व॒धात् ॥

III-31-8

The Pattern and Exemplar of all that is good, He is far, far ahead of all of us He knows all beings and all events May He, our Friend of friends, who from the fulness of His heart shows the path to Heaven, free us from sin

WILSON

May he who is the type of all that is excellent, the anticipator (of his foes), he who knows all that is born, who destroys Shushna, the far-seeing, the restorer of cattle, may he, a friend coming from heaven, honouring us as his friends, be free from all reproach

GRIFFITH

Peer of each noble thing, yea, all-excelling, all creatures doth he know, he slayeth Shushna

Our Leader, fain for war, singing from heaven, as Friend he saved his lovers from dishonour

म॒ह्य॑ ते' स॒ख्यं व॑रि॒म श॒क्ती॒रा वृ॑त्र॒घ्ने नि॒युतो॑ य॒न्ति प॒र्वोः ।  
महि॑ स्तो॒त्रम॒ग्नि आ॒र्गन्म॒ सुरे॒स्माकं॑ सु म॒धव॑न्ब्र॒ह्मोधि॑ गो॒पाः ॥

III-31-14

I yearn for Thy great friendship and Thy great powers  
Billions of powers, each inexhaustible, reside in Thee, the des-  
troyer of nescience May we fervently praise Thee and deserve  
to be protected by Thee that art omniscient Omnipotent God,  
know that Thou art our only Protector and Guardian

WILSON

I wish, Indra, for thy friendship, and (the exercise of) thy  
powers Many horses come to the slayer of Vritra we offer  
to thee, sage, great praise and oblations consider thyself, Magha-  
van, as our protector

GRIFFITH

I crave thy powers, I crave thy mighty friendship full many  
a team goes to the Vritra-slayer

Great is the laud, we seek the Prince's favour Be thou  
O Maghavan, our guard and keeper

विष्णुं स्तोमासः पुरुदस्ममर्का मर्गस्येव कारिणो यामनि गमन् ।  
 उरुकमः ककुहो यस्म पूर्विनि मर्धन्ति युवतयो जनि'त्रीः ॥

III-54-14

*May (all our) hymns and psalms, which usher in our good fortune at the destined moment, reach Vishnu, the All-Doer—the Great Lord of Mighty Strides, whom the vast regions of space, ever youthful, ever bringing forth (unnumbered) beings, dare not disobey*

WILSON.

*May (our) praises and prayers, the causes of good fortune, attain at this sacrifice Vishnu, the object of many rites: he, the wide-stepping, whose commands the many-blending regions of space, the generators (of all beings), do not disobey.*

GRIMM.

*To Vishnu rich in marvels, songs and praises shall go as singers on the road of Bhaga,*

*The Chieftain of the Mighty Stride, whose Mothers, the many young Dames, never disregard him*

नि वेवेति प॒लितो दू॒त आ॒स्वन्त॒र्महांश्च॑रति रो॒चनेन॑ ।  
 व॒पु॒षि वि॒भ्रद॑मि नो वि च॒ष्टे म॒हद्दे॒वाना॑मसु॒रत्वमेक॑म् ॥

III-55-9

God, as the Eternal Messenger, Agni, is present in all herbs, the Omnipotent shines forth in all celestial luminaries. Assuming manifold forms, He overrules all of us. Verily, the stupendous might of gods springs from this sole and supreme God.

WILSON:

In those (plants) the aged messenger (of the gods) constantly abides: mighty, he passes with the radiant (sun) through the regions of space; assuming various forms, he looks (complacently) upon us: great and unequalled is the might of the gods

GRIFFITH:

Deep within these the hoary envoy pierceth, mighty, he goeth to the realm of splendour,

And looketh on us, clad in wondrous beauty. Great is the Gods' supreme and sole dominion

विष्णुर्गोपाः परमे पाति पायः प्रिया धामान्यमृता दर्शनः ।  
अग्निश्च विश्वा भुवनानि वेद महद्देवानामसुरत्वमेकम् ॥

III-55-10

Vishnu, the All-Protector, ever maintains His Supreme nature,—always master of infinite powers, powers superb and immortal. The Supreme God (Agni) knows all worlds Verily, the stupendous might of gods springs from this sole and supreme God

WILSON

Pervading and protecting (all), possessing grateful and immortal radiance, he preserves the supreme path (of the rains), for Agni knows all these worlds: great and unequalled is the might of the gods

GRIFITH

Vishnu, the guardian, keeps the loftiest station, upholding dear, immortal dwelling places

Agni knows well all these created beings Great is the Gods' supreme and sole dominion

देवस्त्वष्टा सविता विश्वरूपः पुपोष प्रजाः पुरुषा जजान ।  
 इमा च विश्वा सुवनान्यस्य महद्देवानामसुरत्वमेकम् ॥

III-55-19

The supreme, omnific Lord, our Creator and Impeller, brings into existence beings of infinite species and provides for their sustenance in ways manifold and mysterious. His, indeed, are all these worlds: verily, the stupendous might of gods springs from this sole and supreme God.

W:

The divine Twashtri the impeller (of all), the multiform, has begotten and nourished a numerous progeny, for all these worlds are of him; great and unequalled is the might of the gods.

G:

Tvashtri the God, the omniform Creator, begets and feeds mankind in various manner.

His, verily, are all these living creatures. Great is the Gods' supreme and sole dominion.

निष्पिध्वरिस्तु ओषधीस्तापो' रविं तं इन्द्र शृथिवी विभर्ति ।  
 सखायस्ते वामगाजः स्याम महद्देवानामसुरत्वमेकम् ॥

III-55-22

And All-Powerful, herbs are pregnant with their infinite potencies, because Thou art present in them, thanks to Thee, the seas and earth contain treasures of price May we be, as Thy friends, getting all the best things from Thee verily the stupendous might of gods springs from this sole and supreme God

WILSON

The plants, Indra, come to perfection by thee, from thee the waters (flow), earth bears her treasures for thee may we, thy friends, be sharers of these blessings great and unequalled is the might of the gods

GRIFFITH

Rich in their gifts for thee are herbs and waters, and earth brings all her wealth for thee, O Indra May we as friends of thine share goodly treasures, Great is the Gods' supreme and sole dominion



इमां च नः पृथिवि विश्वधाया उपे क्षेति हितमित्रो न राजा ।  
 पुरःसदः शर्मसदो न वीरा महद्देवानामसुरत्वमेकम् ॥

III-55-21

/ God, the Supreme Demurge, is ever with this Universe like a king benign and with a friend's solicitude, like a valiant soldier. He always marches ahead of us and ever waits for (the opportunity to give us happiness) our happiness' verily, the stupendous might of gods springs from this sole and supreme God

GRIFFITH

Our king, the nourisher of all, abides (in the firmament) nearest to this earth like a benevolent friend the valiant (Maruts) precede him (when abroad), and dwell in his mansion: great and unequalled is the might of the gods

WILSON

Yea, and on this our earth the All-Sustainer dwells like a king with noble friends about him

In his protection heroes 'rest in safety. Great is the Gods' supreme and sole dominion

नि॒मि॒ध्व॒रि॒स्त्वि॒ ओष॑धी॒रु॒तापो॑ रविं तं इन्द्र॒ पृथि॒वी नि॒मि॒र्ति ।  
 सखा॑यस्ते वाम॒माजः॑ स्याम॒ मह॑दे॒वाना॑मसु॒रत्वमेक॑म् ॥

III-55-22

3d All-Powerful, herbs are pregnant with their infinite potencies, because Thou art present in them, thanks to Thee, the seas and earth contain treasures of price May we be, as Thy friends, getting all the best things from Thee verily the stupendous might of gods springs from this sole and supreme God

WILSON

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GRIFFITH

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*Selections from  
Mandala IV*

मचि॑तिं चि॒नव॑द्वि॒द्वान्पृ॒ष्ठेव॑ वी॒ता वृ॒जिना॑ च॒ मर्ता॑न् ।  
 नः स्व॑प्त्याय॑ दे॒व दि॒तिं च॒ रास्वादि॑ति॒मुरु॑ष्य ॥

IV-2-11

The truly wise man is able to distinguish enlightenment from darkness, to tell wise men from ignorant, even as an experienced groom is able to distinguish straight and shapely backs of horses from the crooked and mis-shapen ones May we, through Thy grace get abundant riches, beget heroic progeny Endow us with generosity, and keep away from us close-fistedness (or, save the liberal and shun the greedy)

WILSON

May the wise Agni discriminate between virtue and vice, between (virtuous and wicked) men, as a (groom distinguishes between) the strong and weak backs (of horses) . enrich us with ✓wealth accompanied by virtuous offspring be bountiful to the liberal giver, shun him who gives not

GRIFFITH

May he who knows distinguish sense and folly of men, like straight and crooked backs of horses

Lead us, O God, to wealth and noble offspring keep penury afar and grant us plenty

OLDENBERG

May he, the knowing one, distinguish wisdom and folly

of mortals, like straight and crooked backs (of horses) And for  
the sake of wealth and noble offspring, O god, grant us Diti and  
keep off Aditi

सुकर्मा॑णः सु॒रुचो॑ दे॒व॒यन्तोऽ॒यो न दे॒वा जनि॑मा॒ धर्म॑न्तः ।  
 शुच॑न्तो॒ अ॒ग्निं व॑वृ॒धन्त॒ इन्द्र॑गू॒र्व ग॒व्यं॑ प॒रिप॑दन्तो अ॒ग्मन् ॥

IV-2-17

The godly, who are ever questing after God, are ever engaged in pious acts, resplendent with spiritual lustre, purify their life, just as a smith smelts the ore. Perpetually striving for more and more light of the Almighty, our Eternal Guide, endeavouring to spread that light everywhere, and holding spiritual colloquiums, they acquire Vedic wisdom high and occult

WILSON.

Performers of good works, brilliant and devout, the praises of the gods have freed their birth from impurity, as (a smith heats) iron: exciting Agni, elevating Indra, and wandering about (in search), they have gone to the vast (hidden) herd of cattle

GRIFFITH.

Gods doing holy acts, devout, resplendent, smelting like ore their human generations.

Enkindling Agni and exalting Indra, they came encompassing the stall of cattle.

OLDENBERG:

The pious men, well performing the acts (of worship), resplendent, melting the gods like ores, kindling Agni, strengthening Indra, went along, besieging the stall of cows.

ऋतेन ऋतं निर्यतमीळ आ गो रामा सचा मधुमत् पकर्ममे ।  
 कृष्णा सती रुशता धासिनैपा जामयेण पर्यसा पीपाय ॥

IV-3-9

With fervent devotion I hymn the unchanging scheme  
 of creation designed by the eternal God from eternity to eternity  
 The cow, no food in itself, yields rich and sweet milk, O Agni  
 ✓ Though she is black, it is surprising that she nourishes all man-  
 kind with her milk so stainlessly white, so nutritive, so healthful

WILSON

I solicit, Agni, the milk of the cow, essential for the sacrifice  
 yet immature, (she possesses) the sweet and ripe (fluid) black  
 though she be, yet with her white nutritious milk, she maintains  
 mankind in existence

GRIFITH

I crave the cow's true gift arranged by Order though raw,  
 she hath the sweet ripe juice, O Agni

Though she is black of hue with milk she teemeth, nutritious,  
 brightly shining, all-sustaining

OLDENFIRE

I Magnify the Rita of the cow ruled by Rita and also by the  
 raw one, the honey-sweet, ripe (milk), O Agni Though being  
 black this (cow) swells of bright drink, of milk

ऋतेन देवीरमृता अमृता अर्णो<sup>१</sup> मिरापो मधुमद्विरग्रे ।

वाजी न सर्गे<sup>१</sup>षु प्रस्तुमानः प्र सदमित्सवि<sup>१</sup>तवे दधन्युः ॥

IV-3-12

The holy rivers, O Agni, that protect all beings, flow on unimpeded, for ever and ever, with their sweet waters, like a steed spurred on—all at Thy bidding

WILSON

By sacrifice, Agni, the divine rivers immortal, unobstructed, continue perpetually to flow with sweet waters, like a horse that is being urged in its speed

GRIFFITH

By Law the Immortal Goddesses the Waters, with meath rich waves, O Agni and uninjured,

Like a strong courser lauded in his running, sped to flow onward swiftly and forever

OLDENBERG

By the Rita the immortal, uninjured goddesses, the Waters, O Agni, with their honey-sweet waves have sped forward for ever to flow (along their course), like a racer incited by shouting when (the race-horses) are let loose



स ते<sup>१</sup> जानाति सुमतिं यविष्ठ<sup>२</sup> य ईदंते<sup>३</sup> ब्रह्मणे गातुमैरन्त<sup>४</sup> ।  
 विश्वान्यस्मै सुदिनानि रायो युग्नान्यर्यो वि दुरो<sup>५</sup> अभि दौत् ॥

IV-4-6

God ever in meridian youthfulness<sup>1</sup> he wins Thy Grace  
 who fervently hymns the Brahma to be All happy days, all  
 riches, all wisdom, all high places are in store for him, because  
 Thou, their Master, dost bless him with these covetable things

Wilson

He experiences thy good favour, youngest (of the gods),  
 who offers praise to thee a Brahman coming quickly (to bestow  
 felicity), to him are all prosperous days and wealth of cattle  
 and treasures do thou, as the lord of sacrifice, shine upon his  
 dwelling

Griffith

Most youthful God, he knoweth well thy favour who gave  
 an impulse to this high devotion

All fair days and magnificence of riches hast thou beamed upon  
 the good man's porch

इह त्वा मूर्त्या चरेदुप त्वन्दोषावस्तर्दीदिवांसमनु द्यून् ।

क्रीळन्तस्त्वा सुमनसः सपेमाभि द्युम्ना तस्थिवांसो जनानाम् ॥

IV-4-9

May each and every one here, of his own accord, worship Thee manifesting Thyself so resplendently (in all things), day and night and all the days of the year May we, for our own part, serve Thee joyously, from the depths of our heart, to acquire knowledge even in the teeth of bitter opposition on all sides

WILSON

May every one of his own accord diligently worship thee, shining in the (hall) morning and evening, every day thus sporting in our dwellings, (enjoying) the wealth of (hostile) man, may we with happy hearts worship thee

GRIFFITH

Here of free choice let each one serve thee richly, resplendent day by day at eve and morning

So may we honour thee, content and joyous, passing beyond the glories of the people

OLDENBERG

May (the worshipper) here frequently of his own accord approach thee, O (god) who shinest in darkness, resplendent day by day Let us worship thee sporting and joyous, surpassing the splendour of (other) people

अस्व॑नज॒स्तर॑ण्यः सु॒शेवा॒ अत॑न्द्रासोऽवृ॒का अश्र॑मिष्ठाः ।

ते पा॒यवः॑ सु॒ध्व्यञ्चो॑ नि॒षद्या॒ग्ने तव॑ नः पा॒न्त्वमू॑ ॥

IV-4-12

O Omniscient Agni, may Thy all-protecting powers which are always in inseparable union, most gladdening to think of, which are ever potent to take us over all hurdles—powers never flagging, never in the least harmful—never exhaustible, preserve us who are seated where they (Thy powers) are

WILSON

All-wise Agni, may thy protecting (rays) unslumbering, alert, propitious, unsloughful, benignant, unwearied, co-operating, having taken their place (at this sacrifice), preserve us

GRIMM

Knowing no slumber, speedy and propitious, alert and ever friendly, most unwearied,

May thy protecting powers, unerring Agni, taking their places here, combined, preserve

ऋतं वो॑ चे नम॑सा पृ॒च्छन्म॑नस्तत्रा॒शसा॑ जातयेदो॒ यदीद॑म् ।  
 त्वमस्य॑ क्षीय॑सि यद्ध॒ विश्वं॑ दि॒वि यदु॒ द्रवि॑णं यत्पृथि॒व्याम् ॥

IV-5-11

O Omniscient, Omnipotent God, Jatavedas! At the request of earnest seekers, with great reverence I proclaim the truth that whatever exists exists by Thy blessings, that Thou art the Master of all this Universe, of all the wealth that is in Heaven or on Earth

WILSON

Interrogated with respect, I declare the truth, that this (wealth is acquired), Jatavedas, by the praise of thee thou rulest over it, (over) all that (it may be), the wealth that is in heaven or on earth

GRIFITHS

With reverence I declare the law, O Agni, what is, comes by thine order, Jatavedas

Of this, what'er it be, thou art the Sovran, yea all the wealth that is in earth or heaven

OLDENBERG

I speak, when being asked *Rita* (i.e. truth), out of reverence (for Agni, or for the gods), out of hope placed in thee O Gata-vedas, as I am here Thou rulest over all this wealth whatever (dwells) in heaven and earth

अनायतो॒ अनि॑बद्धः क॒थायं न्य॑द्दुत्तानोऽव॑ पद्यते न ।

कया॑ याति स्व॒धया॒ सो द॑दर्श दि॒वः स्क॒म्भः समृ॑तः पाति॒ नाके॑म् ॥

IV-14-5

He is not governed by any (power) above Him, He cannot be obstructed Ever high, He cannot, by any means or by any one, be brought down He always moves with the absolute independence, that is His indicum Pillar unshakable of the firmament that He is, He swerves not an ace from His own laws The Sovereign Lord He is of final Beatitude

#### WILSON

This sun, not far removed and unobstructed, whether looking downwards or looking upwards, is harmed by no one what is the power by which he travels? who has (truly) beheld him who, as the collective pillar of heaven, sustains the sky?

#### GRITTIH

How is it that, unbound and unsupported, he falleth not although directed downward?

By what self-power moves he? Who hath seen it? He guards the vault of heaven, a close-set pillar

व॒स॒क्ष इन्द्रो॑ अ॒भि॒त॒मृ॒जी॒ष्णु॒रे॑ मे॒ आ॒ प॒प्रौ॒ रोद॑सी म॒हि॒त्वा ।  
अ॒र्त॒श्चि॒द॒स्य॒ म॒हि॒मा॒ नि॒ रे॒च्य॒मि॒ यो॒ वि॒श्वा॒ मु॒र॒ना॒ व॒मृ॒व॑ ॥

IV-16-5

The Almighty, who deigns to accept the stale, tasteless Soma from His devotee, confers on him countless bounties. He fills both Heaven and Earth by His vastness, His Greatness, however, infinitely transcends His vastness. By His excellences, He overtops all the worlds put together.

WILSON

Indra, the acceptor of the stale Soma, sustains infinite greatness, and has filled heaven and earth by his magnitude. therefore has the vastness of him who has surpassed all the regions, exceeded (the world)

GRIFFITH

Indra, Impetuous One, hath waxed immensely. he with his vastness hath filled earth and heaven.

E'en beyond this his majesty extendeth who hath exceeded all the worlds in greatness.

य एक इच्छावयति प्र भूमा राजा कृष्टीनां पुरुहूत इन्द्रः ।  
 सत्यमेनमनु विश्वे मदन्ति रति देवस्य गृणतो मघोनः ॥

IV-17-5

God Almighty, the Supreme Being the Sovereign of all people, worshipped of unnumbered beings, ■ the only one who can humble the haughty In very truth, all souls rejoice only upon receiving the bounties bestowed on them by this omnipotent God when invoked with deep piety

WILSON

All men, praising the munificence of the divine Maghavan, verily glorify him who alone casts down many, Indra, the king of men, the adored of many

GRIFITH

He who alone overthrows the world of creatures, Indra the peoples' King, invoked of many—

Verily all rejoice in Him, extolling the boons which Maghavan the God hath sent them

॥ ॐ इत्येवमस्मिन् ॥ ॐ इत्येवमस्मिन् ॥  
 ॥ ॐ इत्येवमस्मिन् ॥ ॐ इत्येवमस्मिन् ॥

IV-17-5

God Almighty, the Supreme Being, the Sovereign of all people, worshipped of unnumbered beings, is the only one who can humble the haughty. In very truth, all souls rejoice only upon receiving the bounties bestowed on them by this omnipotent God which invoked with deep piety.

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 Verily all rejoice in Him, extolling the boons which Magha  
 the God hath sent them



स्तुत इन्द्रो' मघवा यद्ध वृत्रा भूरीण्येको' अप्रतीनि' हन्ति ।  
 अस्य प्रियो जरिता यस्य शर्मन्नकि'र्देवा वारयन्ते न मर्ताः ॥

IV-17-19

When the Almighty (Indra) is adored, He by Himself, destroys our sins, be they countless and ever so heinous Most dear unto Him is the devotee who sings His glories, when he is under His gracious protection, none, divine or human, can do him the least harm

WILSON

When Indra the possessor of opulence, is glorified, he singly destroys many unyielding foes the worshipping is dear to him (who relies) on his protection, and neither gods nor men molest him

GRIFFITH

Alone, when Indra Maghavan is lauded, he slayeth many ne'er-resisted Vriatras

Him in whose keeping is the well-loved singer never do gods or mortals stay or hinder

आता ते शीतं ददन्त आतिथिस्वाता शीतं शीतानाम् ।  
 एवं शीतं शीतं शीतं शीतं शीतं शीतं शीतं शीतं ॥

IV-17-17

God-minded as we are, be Thou our Protector, our close relation calling on us time and oft, our best mentor, our great benefactor, be thou our intimate Friend, our Father, most affectionate of fathers. To crown all this, Thou hast created a special world for Thy devotees, bestowing upon them immortality.

WISDOM

Be our preserver, thou who art looking (benevolently upon) all, a kinsman to us, a supervisor (of all things), a bestower of felicity on those who are worthy to offer libations, a friend, a protector, a defender in the highest degree amongst defenders, a creator, (be thou who bestowest) the world of heaven upon him who desires it, the giver to us of food

GUARDIAN

Be thou our guardian, show thyself our kinsman, watching and blessing those who pour the Soma,  
 As friend, as sire, most fatherly of fathers, giving the suppliant, vital strength and freedom

GIVER, KIN AND FORT

Appearing as our friend, do thou defend us,—  
 The Soma-pourer's comforter and safeguard,  
 Friend, father thou, most fatherly of fathers,  
 Who gives the suppliant life, and grants him freedom.

स्तुत॑ इन्द्रो॑ म॒घवा॑ यद्ध॑ वृ॒त्रा मू॒रीण्येको॑ अ॒प्रती॑नि॒ हन्ति॑ ।

अ॒स्य प्रि॒यो ज॑रि॒ता यस्य॑ शर्म॒न्नकि॑दे॒वा वा॒रय॑न्ते न म॒र्ताः ॥

IV-17-19

When the Almighty (Indra) is adored, He by Himself, destroys our sins, be they countless and ever so heinous. Most dear unto Him is the devotee who sings His glories, when he is under His gracious protection, none, divine or human, can do him the least harm.

WILSON

When Indra, the possessor of opulence, is glorified, he singly destroys many unyielding foes. The worshipper is dear to him (who relies) on his protection, and neither gods nor men molest him.

GRIFFITH

Alone, when Indra Maghavan is lauded, he slayeth many ne'er-resisted Vriatras.

Him in whose keeping is the well-loved singer never do gods or mortals stay or hinder.

अस्य हि श्रेष्ठः पतिर्वाक्यस्य पतिर्देवताभिर्देवि ।  
 अस्य देवको' पतिरा देवे काली' वृषातः शिवाय अयाः ॥

IV-23-8

Infinite are the powers of *Rita* (God-Dharma), which puts an end to all afflictions, the contemplation of *Rita* dispels all sins. The (Vedic) praise of *Rita*, so illuminating and so purifying to living beings, would impress and inspire even unheeding cars

WILSON

Many are the waters of *Rita*, the adoration of *Rita* destroys iniquities, the intelligent and brilliant praise of *Rita* has opened the deaf (ears) of man

GUTHRIE

Eternal law hath varied food that strengthens, though of eternal Law removes transgressions  
 The praise-hymn of eternal Law arousing, glowing, hath opened the deaf ears of the living

ऋतस्य हि शुरुषः सन्ति पूर्वर्क्तस्य धीतिर्वृजिनानि हन्ति ।

ऋतस्य श्लोको बधिरा ततर्द कर्णा धुधानः शुचर्मान् आयोः ॥

IV-23-8

Infinite are the powers of *Rita* (God-Dharma), which puts an end to all afflictions, the contemplation of *Rita* dispels all sins. The (Vedic) praise of *Rita*, so illuminating and so purifying to living beings, would impress and inspire even unheeding ears.

#### WILSON

Many are the waters of *Rita*, the adoration of *Rita* destroys iniquities, the intelligent and brilliant praise of *Rita* has opened the deaf (ears) of man.

#### GRIFFITH

Eternal law hath varied food that strengthens, thought of  
eternal Law removes transgressions

The praise-hymn of eternal Law arousing, glowing, hath  
opened the deaf ears of the living

ऋ॒तस्य॑ दृ॒ढहा॑ घ॒रुणा॑नि सन्ति पु॒रुषा॑णि च॒न्द्रा व॑पु॒षे व॑पू॒षि ।  
 ऋ॒तेन॑ दी॒र्घमि॑षणन्त॒ पृ॒क्ष ऋ॒तेन॑ गा॒वं ऋ॒तमा॑ वि॒वेशुः॑ ॥

IV-23-9

The laws of *Rita* are firm and resistless For the good of living beings *Rita* assumes forms infinite and beautiful Because there  
 || *Rita*, men hope for long-lasting food The Vedas enshrine eternal Truth within themselves by the grace of *Rita*

WILSON

Many are the stable, sustaining, delightful forms of the embodied *Rita* by *Rita* are (the pious) expectant of food, by *Rita* have the kine entered into the sacrifice

GRIFFITH

Firm-seated are the eternal Law's foundations, in its fair form are many splendid beauties

By holy Law long lasting food they bring us, by holy Law have cows come to our worship

ऋतं येमान ऋतमिद्वनोत्पृतस्य शुष्मास्तुरया उं गव्युः ।  
 ऋताय पृथ्वी चंद्रले गंभीरे ऋताय धेनू परमे दुहति ॥

IV-23-10

One who clings fast to *Rita* will attain *Rita* itself The strength of *Rita* is so far-reaching that it brings wisdom to those that ensue || Earth and Heaven, so vast, so deep, owe their existence to *Rita* These two supernal cows yield their ambrosial milk (their treasured contents) for the gratification of *Rita*

WILSON

The (worshipper) subjecting *Rita* (to his will) verily enjoys *Rita* the strength of *Rita* is (developed) with speed, and || desirous of (possessing) water to *Rita* belong the wide and profound heaven and earth supreme milch-kine, they yield their milk to *Rita*

GRIMMII

Fixing eternal Law he too upholds it swift moves the might of Law and wins the booty

To Law belong the vast deep Earth and Heaven Milch-kine supreme to Law their milk they render

हंसः शुचिपदसुरन्तरिक्षसदोत वेदिपदतिथिर्दुरोणसत् ।

नृपद्वरसद्वेतसद्वयोमसद्वजा गोजा ऋतजा बोद्धिजा ऋतम् ॥

IV-40-5

All-pervading Rita, the unchangeable Supreme Being, is the purest of the pure; He dwells in holy men, in the mid-regions; He is the priest at the altar, the guest in the house. The Supreme Being indwells all men, all excellent things and permeates all eternal laws, He pervades the firmament, manifests Himself in the waters, on the earth, in sacrifice, in mountains

WILSON.

He is Hansa, (the sun), dwelling in light, Vasu, (the wind), dwelling in the firmament; the invoker of the gods (Agni), dwelling on the altar, the guest (of the worshipper), dwelling in the house (as the culinary fire), the dweller amongst men, (as consciousness), the dweller in the most excellent (orb, the sun), the dweller in truth, the dweller in the sky (the air), born in the waters, in the rays of light, in the verity (of manifestation) in the (eastern) mountain, the truth (itself)

GRIFFITH

The Hansa homed in light, the Vasu in mid-air, the priest beside the altar, in the house the guest.

Dweller in noblest place, mid men, in truth, in sky, born of flood, kine, truth, mountain, he is holy Law.



यस्तस्तम् सहेसा वि ज्मो अन्तान्वृहस्पतिस्त्रिषधस्यो रवेण ।  
 ते प्रत्नास ऋषयो दध्यानाः पुरो विप्रा दधिरे मन्द्रजिह्वम् ॥

IV-50-1

God, the sovereign Lord of even the highest (Bṛhaspati), seated in His three headquarters, firmly holds aloft, by a mere word of command, the ends of the whole Universe, through His might Him, of mellifluous tongue, ancient sages compelled to stand before them, after long meditation

WILSON

The ancient sages, illustrious, intelligent, have placed before (them) the pleasing-tongued Bṛhaspati, who propped up by (his) strength the ends of the earth, and who abides with noise in the three regions

GRITTIH

Him who with might hath propped earth's ends, who sitteth in threefold seat, Bṛhaspati, with thunder,

Him of the pleasant tongue have ancient sages, deep-thinking, holy singers, set before them

MACDONELL

Bṛhaspati who occupying three seats with roar has propped asunder with might the ends of the earth, him, the charming-tongued, the ancient seers, the wise, pondering, placed at their head

THOMAS:

Brihaspati who stands in three abodes has supported on high with thunder-roar the ends of the earth. Him of intoxicating speech have the meditating sages, the wise ones, placed at their head.

स इत्क्षेति सुषित ओकसि स्वे तस्मा इळा पित्वते विश्वदानीम् ।  
 तस्मै विशः स्वयमेवा नेमन्ते यस्मिन्ब्रह्मा राजनि पूर्व एति ॥

IV-50-8

He, most blissful, resides only in Himself, because of Him the earth yields food at all times Pious people bow to Him of their own accord, even Brahma, the first and foremost of souls, gladly and reverently acknowledges his subordination to Him

WILSON

Venly he abides prosperous in his own abode, for him the earth bears fruit at all seasons, to him (his) subjects willingly pay homage, the prince, to whom the Brahmana first, (duly revered), repairs

GRIFFITH

In his own house he dwells in peace and comfort, to him for ever holy food flows richly

To him the people with free will pay homage—the King with whom the Brahman hath precedence

MACDONELL

That king dwells well-established in his own abode, in him the consecrated food always yields abundance, to him his subjects bow down of their own accord, with whom the priest has precedence

THOMAS

That king abides well established in his dwellings, to him  
the sacrificial food is even fruitful, to him the tribes even of  
themselves make obeisance, with whom a brahmin-priest has  
precedence

अचिंती यच्चकृमा दैव्ये जने' दीनैर्दक्षैः प्रमृती पूरुषत्वता ।  
 देवेषु च सवितर्मानुषेषु च त्व नो अत्र सुवतादनांसः ॥३॥

IV-54-3

O Savitar, whatever sins we might have committed against the godly, against the diverse manifestations of God, or even against common people, through ignorance, through weakness, through hauteur, or through our being after all human, do Thou absolve us from them

WILSON

If, Savitri, through ignorance, through pride in feeble or powerful (dependants), or through human infirmity, we have committed (offence) against thy divine person, or against gods or men do thou on this occasion hold us to be unoffending

GRISTITH

If we, men as we are, have sinned against the Gods through want of thought, in weakness, or through insolence,

Absolve us from the guilt and make us free from sin, O Savitar, alike among both gods and men

न प्रमि॒ये' स॒वि॒तुर्दे॒व्यस्य॒ तद्यथा॒ वि॒श्वं भुव॑नं धारयिष्यति ।  
 यत्पृ॒थिव्या॑ वरि॒मन्त्रा॑ स्व॒ङ्गु॒रिर्वि॒र्ष्मन्दि॒वः सु॒वति॑ स॒त्यम॑स्य॒ तत् ॥

IV-54-4

May that power of the Creator (Savitar) be not ignored—the power by which He maintains the whole world, the power by which He, of beautiful fingers, brings vastness to the earth and splendour to the sky. All His creations are true—absolutely true

WILSON:

(It is) not (fit) to obstruct (the acts) of the divine Savitri, since by them he upholds the whole world, whereby his gracious hand spreads fertility over the extent of the earth, and the magnitude of the heaven; such is his true (power).

GRIFFITH:

None may impede that power of Savitar the God whereby he will maintain the universal world .

What the fair-fingered God brings forth on earth's expanse or in the height of heaven, that work of his stands sure.

समुद्राद्भिर्मधुमौ उदारदुपांशुना सममृतत्वमानद् ।

घृतस्य नाम गुह्यं यदस्ति जिह्वा देवानाममृतस्य नाभिः ॥

IV-58-1

From the Supreme Being, the bubbling Fount of all good things, that intensely sweet wave, namely, the Vedas, has sprung up, it has, along with the wisdom stored in it, become immortal. This wave (the Vedas) happens to be the mystic name of the self-luminous Supreme. It is the tongue of divine beings, the most potent instrument of our Emancipation.

WILSON

The sweet water swells up from the firmament by the (solar) ray (man) obtains immortality that which is the secret name of clarified butter is the tongue of gods, the navel of ambrosia

GRIFFITH

Forth from the ocean sprang the wave of sweetness; together with the stalk is turned to Amrit.

That which is holy oil's mysterious title, but the Gods' tongue is truly Amrit's centre

व॒यं ना॒म प्र ब्र॑वामा घृ॒तस्या॒स्मिन्य॒ज्ञे घा॑रयामा नमो॒भिः ।

उप॑ ब्र॒ह्मा शृ॑णव॒च्छस्य॑मानं चतुःशृङ्गोऽव॒मीद॒गौर ए॒तत् ॥

IV-58-2

Let us chant the name of the Self-luminous God Let us meditate upon Him, at this sacrifice, with repeated salutations May the four-faced *Brahma* hear this being chanted, inasmuch as it was he, the stainlessly pure one, that passed on to us the *Veda*

WILSON

We celebrate the name *Ghr̥ita* at this sacrifice, we offer it with adoration may the four-horned *Brahma* listen to its being glorified the fair-complexioned deity perfects this rite

GRIFFITH

Let us declare aloud the name of *Ghr̥ita*, and at this sacrifice hold it up with homage

So let the Brahman hear the praise we utter This hath the fourhorned Buffalo emitted



चत्वारि शृङ्गा त्रयो अस्य पादा द्वे शीर्षे सप्त हस्तासौ अस्य ।  
 त्रिधा बद्धो वृषभो रोस्वीति महो देवो मर्त्या आ विवेश ॥

IV-58-3

He has four horns, three feet, two heads, seven hands, the Bull, Sovereign God, Showerer of all bounties, has settled Himself on human beings, where, being chained by the three, He bellows (For the deep spiritual meaning of this mantra refer to the last part of 'Appendix')

WILSON

Four are his horns, three are his feet his heads are two, his hands are seven, the triple-bound showerer (of benefits) roars aloud the mighty deity has entered amongst men

GRIFFITH

Four are his horns, three are the feet that bear him, his heads are two, his hands are seven in number

Bound with a triple bond the Steer roars loudly the mighty God hath entered into mortals

त्रिधा हितं पणिभिर्गुह्यमानं गवि देवासो घृतमन्वविन्दन् ।  
 इन्द्र एकं सूर्य एकं जवान वेनादेकं स्वधया निष्टतक्षुः ॥

IV-58-4

The divine beings discovered the Light of Truth enveloped in darkness by the godless crew—the Truth presented crystal clear in its triple form in the Vedas: Indra illuminated one, Surya another; the third, seers brought to light from the inmost urge of their hearts deeply yearning for God.

WILSON:

The gods discovered the *Ghi* concealed by the *Panus*, placed three-fold in the cow: Indra generated one (portion), Surya another, the (other gods) fabricated one from the resplendent (*Agni*), for the sake of the oblation.

GRANTH:

That oil in triple shape the Gods discovered laid down within the Cow, concealed by *Panus*

Indra produced one shape, Surya another: by their own power they formed the third from *Vena*.

ए॒ता अ॒र्ध॒न्ति हृ॒द्यात्समु॒द्राच्छ॒त॒व॒जा रि॒पु॒ण॒ । ना॒व॒च॒क्षे ।  
घृ॒त॒स्य धा॒रा॒ अ॒मि चा॒क॒शी॒मि हि॒र॒ण्य॒यो वे॒त॒सो म॒ध्यं आ॒साम् ॥

IV-58-5

From God, the abode of all supernal excellences and Beauty,  
flow down, in countless streams, the Vedas that are repositories  
of infinite Knowledge couched in manifold styles But the  
godless do not see them Through the grace of God I see the  
uninterrupted streams of Knowledge From among us who  
have seen the *Smis*, Brahma stands out as the seer *par excellence*

WILSON

These hundred-channelled showers fall from the heart-delighting  
firmament, unobserved by the hostile (cloud) I look upon  
these showers of *Ghi*, (and behold) the golden *Vetasa* in the midst  
of them

GRIFFITH

From inmost reservoir in countless channels flow down  
these rivers which the foe beholds not

I look upon the streams of oil descending, and lo! the Golden  
Reed is there among them

स॒म्यक् स्र॑वन्ति स॒रितो॒ न धे॑ना॒ अ॒न्तर्हृ॑दा म॒नसा॒ पू॒यमा॑नाः ।  
 ए॒ते अ॑र्प॒न्त्यूर्म॑यो घृ॒तस्य॑ मृ॒गा इ॒व क्षि॑प॒णोरी॑षमाणाः ॥

IV-58-6

These soul-stirring *Sritis* flow like rivers that course on without the least interruption. They are most sacred, welling up as they do from the mind most concentrated. They are the waves of the Self-luminous sweeping on at great speed like deer scampering away through mortal fear of the huntsman

WILSON:

They flow uninterruptedly like pleasing rivers, purified by the mind that is seated in the heart: these streams of *Ghi* descend (upon the fire), like deer flying from the hunter

GRIFFITH:

✓ Like rivers our libations flow together, cleansing themselves in inmost heart and spirit.

The streams of holy oil pour swiftly downward like the wild beasts that fly before the bowman.

सिन्धो॑स्वि ग्राध्व॑ने शू॒घना॑सो वा॒तश्र॑मि॒यः प॑त॒यन्ति॑ य॒द्वाः ।  
 घृ॒तस्य॑ धा॒रा अ॒रुपो॑ न वा॒जी का॒ष्ठा मि॒न्दन्नु॒र्मिभिः॑ पि॒न्व॑मानः ॥

IV-58-7

*Sruv's great streams of light, flow out (from the minds of sages) with the speed of a gale, like rapids rushing down a slope surging with the high waves of wisdom they break through all obstacles as does a mettlesome war-horse*

WILSON

*The streams of Gln fall copious, swift as the wind, and rapid as the waters of a river down a declivity, breaking through the confining banks, and hurrying on with their waves, like a high-spirited steed*

GRIFFITH

*As rushing down the rapids of a river, flow swifter than the wind the vigorous currents,*

*The streams of oil in swelling fluctuation like a red courser bursting through the fences*

अभि प्रव॑न्त॒ सम॑ने॒व योषाः॑ क॒ल्या॒ण्यः॑ स्मय॑मानासो अ॒ग्निम् ।  
 घृ॒तस्य॑ धा॒राः स॒मिधो॑ न॒सन्त॒ ता जु॑षा॒णो ह॑र्य॒ति जा॒तवे॑दाः ॥

IV-58-8

The *Srutis*, which are repositories of wisdom, unequivocally draw themselves to God, our Guide Supreme, just as loving wives, faithful and smiling, approach their husbands, and they highlight every aspect of God. The Omniscient Being, graciously pleased, equally longs for the *Srutis*

WILSON

The streams of *Ghi* incline to Agni as devoted wives, auspicious and smiling, to a husband: they feed (the flame) like fuel, and Jatavedas, propitiated, accepts them.

GRIFFITH:

Like women at a gathering fair to look on and gently smiling, they incline to Agni.

The streams of holy oil attain the fuel, and Jatavedas joyfully receives them.

क॒न्या इ॒व व॒ह॒तुमे॒त॒वा उ॑ अ॒ञ्ज्य॑ञ्जाना अ॒भि चा॑क॒शीमि ।  
 यत्र॒ सोमः॑ सू॒यते॒ यत्र॑ य॒ज्ञो घृ॒तस्य॑ घा॒रा अ॒भि तर्प॑वन्ते ॥

IV-58-9

I picture these *Struts*, which centre round the Supreme and are adorned with beautiful figures of speech, as maidens that deck themselves with graceful ornaments when they go to wed the youth of their choice. These streams of wisdom flow (i.e. are recited) where a sacrifice is performed and where the Soma is pressed.

WILSON

I contemplate these streams of *Ghi* as they flow from where the *Soma* is effused, where the sacrifice (is solemnised), as maidens decorating themselves with unguents to go to the bridegroom.

GRIFFITH

As maidens deck themselves with gay adornment to join the bridal feast I now behold them

Where Soma flows and sacrifice is ready, thither the streams of holy oil are running

अ॒भ्यर्ष॑त सु॒ष्टु॒तिं ग॒व्य॑मा॒जिम॒स्मासु॑ म॒द्रा द्रवि॑णानि धत्त ।  
 इ॒म य॒ज्ञं ने॑यत दे॒वता॑ नो घृ॒तस्य॑ धा॒रा मधु॑मत्पवन्ते ॥

IV-58-10

Ye adored divinities, graciously accept our prayer, be pleased to confer on us the most auspicious wealth, sacred and infinitely varied, namely, the multitude of Vedas We pray ye, gods lead us to that sacrifice (sacred ceremonial) where the Srutis, words of high wisdom, bring sweet purity to us

WILSON

(Priests) address the pious praise, (the source) of herds of cattle bestow upon us auspicious riches convey this our sacrifice to the gods, (whereat) the streams of *Glu* with sweetness descend

GRIFFITH

Send to our eulogy a herd of cattle bestow upon us excellent possessions

Bear to the gods the sacrifice we offer : the streams of oil flow pure and full of sweetness

(G's note This is Sayana's interpretation The gods are addressed and asked to reward the singers)



धार्मन्ते विश्वं भुवन्मधि श्रितमन्तः समुद्रे हृद्यन्तरायुषि ।  
अपामनीके समिधे य आमृतस्तमश्याम मधुमन्तं त ऊर्मिम् ॥

IV-58-11

The whole universe is entirely dependent upon Thy power, which resides in the ocean, in the hearts of living beings, in their food (bringing longevity), in the vast expanse of waters, in sacrifice and in battle. May we enjoy Thy wave, all-pervading and sweet beyond compare

WILSON

The whole world, (Agni), finds an asylum in thine effulgence, whether it be in the ocean, in the heart (of man), in the life (of living beings), in the assemblage of the waters, or in warfare: may we attain that sweet-flavoured wave which is established in thy (essence)

GRIFITH

The universe depends upon thy power and might within the sea, within the heart, within all life.

May we attain the sweetly-flavoured wave of thine, brought, at its gathering, o'er the surface of the floods

*Selections from  
Mandala V*

मातेव॑ यद्भर॑से पप्र॒थानो॑ ज॒न॒धनं॑ धार॑से चक्ष॑से च ।

वयो॑ वयो॑ जर॑से यद्घा॑नः परि॒ त्मना॑ वि॒पु॒रुषो॑ वि॒गासि॑ ॥

V-15-4

Thou (Agni) dost create food of all kinds and digest it (after it is taken in) and thus Thou preservest all people like a mother, goading them on towards a better and richer life, towards clearer and broader vision, playing various roles, Thou preservest us all in every way

WILSON

When, everywhere predominating, thou cherishest all men like a mother, and (art implored by all) to behold and to support them, and when, being detained, thou maturest every kind of food, then, multiform (Agni), thou comprisest (all beings) in thyself

GRIFFITH

When like a mother, spreading forth to nourish, to cherish and regard each man that liveth,—

Consuming all the strength that thou hast gotten, wanderest round, thyself in varied fashion

OLDENBERG

When thou carriest, spreading out, man after man like a mother, for their nourishment and for their sight, when thou growest old assuming life after life, thou goest around by thyself in manifold shapes

ये चा॒कने॒न्त चा॒कने॒न्त नू ते म॒र्ता॑ अ॒मृत॒ मो ते अ॒ह आ॒रन् ।  
 वा॒वन्धि॒ यज्यँ॑रु॒त तेपु॑ घे॒द्योजो॒ जने॑षु॒ येपु॑ ते॒ स्याम॑ ॥

V-32-13

O Spirit Immortal, let those that long and long for Thee most anxiously never even remotely think of any sin; pray, stand by thy worshippers at all times; be pleased to bestow strength and vigour upon them, amongst whom we can by Thy grace be counted, indisputably, as Thine

WILSON:

Immortal (Indra), let not the mortals who are wishing, anxiously wishing, for thee, fall into sin be indeed pleased with the sacrificers, and grant vigour to those men amongst whom may we be (especially) thine

GRIFITH:

Let mortals who were happy still be happy. let them not come to sorrow, O Immortal

Love thou the pious, and to these thy people—with whom may we be numbered—give thou vigour.

वित्वक्षणः ससृतौ चरुमासजोऽसुन्वतो विष्णुः सुन्वतो वृषः  
इन्द्रो विश्वस्य दमिता विर्भाषणो यथावश नयति दासमार्यः ॥

V-34-6

Indra, wielder of the discus, hews down His enemies in battle, turning away His face from those who do not press all that they have into His service. He ever promotes and fosters those who dedicate themselves lock, stock and barrel to His service. The great Ruler of the Universe waxes terrible as He brings it under control. The magnanimous Lord keeps His devotees under His benign sway, quite in accord with their heart's wish.

WILSON

Thinning (his enemies) in battle and accelerating the wheels (of his car) he turns away from him who offers no libation, and augments (the prosperity of) the offerer. Indra, the subduer of all, the formidable, the Lord, conducts the *Dasa* at his pleasure.

GRIFFITH

Exceeding strong in war he stays the chariot wheel, and, hating him who pours not, prospers him who pours.

Indra, the terrible, tamer of every man, as an Arya leads away the *Dasa* at his will.

समीं॑ प॒णे॒रजति॑ मो॒र्जनं॑ मु॒पे वि दा॒शुपे॑ मजति॒ सुन॑रं॒ वसु॑ ।  
 दु॒र्गे च॒न ध्रि॑यते॒ विश्व॑ आ पु॒रु ज॒नो यो अ॑स्य तवि॒षीम॑नु॒कुषत् ॥

V-34-7

He clean snatches away all the store of the greedy, while He bestows on the generous prizable wealth No man, however great, who provokes to wrath the awful might of God Omnipotent, can hope to live safe even in the strongest fortress

WILSON

He proceeds to plunder the wealth of the (avaricious), and bestows the riches that are prized by man upon the donor (of the libation) every man is involved in great difficulty who provokes the might of Indra to wrath

GRIFFITH

He gathers up for plunder all the niggard's gear excellent wealth he gives to him who offers gifts

Not even in wide stronghold may all the folk stand firm who have provoked to anger his surpassing might

चक्रं व वृत्तं पुरुद्वत् वेपते मनो' मिया मे अमतेरिद्विवः ।

स्थादधि' त्वा जरिता सदावृध कुविन्नु स्तो'पन्मववन्सुवसुः ॥

V-36-3

God Omnipotent invoked by all pious men, Eternal Fount of all bounties, Mover of mountains! my mind quakes, like a whirling wheel, in its trepidation for a man who never prays to Thee, should not a man endowed with great fortune deem it his bounden duty to hymn Thee, even when he rides a stately chariot?

WILSON:

Wielder of the thunderbolt, the invoked of many, my mind trembles through dread of poverty like a whirling wheel: Maghavan, ever prosperous, may thy worshipper, Puruvasu, praise thee promptly and abundantly, seated in thy chariot

GRIFFITH:

Invoked of many, Caster of the Stone! my heart quakes like a rolling wheel for fear of penury.

Shall not Puruvasu the singer give thee praise, O ever-prospering Maghavan, mounted on thy car?

वि॒सर्मा॑णं कृ॒णु॒हि वि॒त्तमे॑षां ये सु॒खते॒ अप॑र्णन्तो न उ॒क्यैः ॥  
 अप॑व्र॒तान्प्र॒सवे॒ वा॒वृ॒घा॒नान्ब्र॑ह्म॒द्विषः॒ सूर्या॑वावयस्व ॥

V-42-9

Deplete the wealth of those who enjoy happiness ■ the harvest of our prayers without ever sharing their wealth with others Those who sheer away from the path of piety, who hate God, and go on multiplying their progeny (by their sensual indulgence)—Oh, keep them far far away from the sun

WILSON

Render transitory the riches of those who partake of enjoyment without giving satisfaction (to those who are eminent) by holy hymns put apart from the sun those who perform not sacred rites, and who, though prospering in their posterity, are the adversaries of prayer

GRIFFITH

Make their wealth flee who, through our hymns enjoying their riches, yield us not an ample guerdon  
 Far from the sun keep those who hate devotion, the godless, prospering in their vocation



य ओ॒हते॑ र॒क्षसो॑ दे॒ववी॑ताव॒चने॑मि॒स्तं म॑रु॒तो नि या॑त ।

यो वः॑ शमी॑ शश॒मान॒स्य नि॒न्दतु॑च्छ॒वान्कामो॑न्कर॒ते सि॒ध्दि॒दानः॑ ॥

V-42-10

O ye Maruts, hurl him down who invites to the sacred feast Rakshasas together with the lawless crew, hurl him down who glorifies the man hymning you with fervour, and him, too, who sweats and toils for the gratification of sordid cravings

WILSON

Send, Maruts, into darkness, with (cars) devoid of wheels, the man who invites the *Rakshasas* to the food of the gods, (him also) who reviles me when offering praise to you whilst sweating, he toils (to realize) vain desires

GRIFFITH

With wheelless chariots drive down him, O Maruts, who at the feast of gods, regards the demons

May he, though bathed in sweat, form empty wishes, who blames his sacred rite who toils to serve you.

यो जा॒गार॒ तमृ॑चः॒ कामा॑यन्ते॒ यो जा॒गार॒ तमु॒ सामा॑नि॒ यन्ति॑ ।  
 यो जा॒गार॒ तम॑यं सोम॑ आ॒ह तवा॑हम॒स्मि स॒ख्ये न्यो॑काः ॥

V-44-14

Who ever lives in (is ever awake in) God, the Riks love him;  
 who ever lives in (is ever awake in) God, the Samas seek him  
 Addressing him so wakeful, God, the Home and Fount of Bliss  
 (Soma), gives His word. "I shall ever be your Friend, fast and  
 true"

WILSON.

Him who is ever vigilant, holy verses desire: to him who is  
 ever vigilant sacred songs proceed him who is ever vigilant  
 the Soma thus addresses, I am always abiding in thy fellowship

GRITTIH

The sacred hymns love him who wakes and watches: to him  
 who watches come the Sama verses.

Thus Soma saith unto the man who watches, I rest and have  
 my dwelling in thy friendship.

अग्निर्जागार तमृचः कामयन्तः॑ अग्निर्जागार तसु सामानि यन्ति ।  
 अग्निर्जागार तमयं सोम आह तवाहमास्मि सख्ये न्योकाः ॥

V-44-15

Agni ever lives in (is all awake in) God, so the Riks love him, Agni ever lives in God, so the Samas seek him, Agni ever lives in God, and hence God, the Home and Forest of Bliss (Soma), addressing him, gives His word—"I shall ever be your Friend, fast and true."

WILSON

Agni is ever vigilant, and him holy verses desire. Agni is ever vigilant, and to him sacred songs proceed: Agni is ever vigilant, and him the *Soma* thus addresses, I am ever abiding in thy fellowship.

GRIFFITH.

Agni is ever watchful, and the Richas love him; Agni is watchful, Sama verses seek him,

Agni is watchful, to him saith this Soma, I rest and have my dwelling in thy friendship.

चत्वार ई विप्रति क्षेमयन्तो दश गर्भं चरसे धापयन्ते ।

विधातवः परमा अस्य गावो दिवश्चरन्ति परि सद्यो अन्तान् ॥

V-47-4

The four Vedas enshrine Him, yearning as they do to usher in the welfare of the world The ten Upanishads feed us with the inmost essence of the Vedas for furthering action and contemplation The wondrously effulgent rays of the Vedas, promoting *Karma*, *Jnana* and *Bhakti*, have already shot up as high as the heavens and streamed forth to the farthest ends of the earth

WILSON

The four (chief priests) sustain him (with oblations and praises) seeking their own welfare the ten (regions of space) invigorate him, their embryo, to travel (his daily course) his three elementary rays swiftly traverse the boundaries of the sky

GRANT

Four bear him up and give him rest and quiet, and ten invigorate the babe for travel

His kine most excellent, of threefold nature, pass swiftly round the boundaries of heaven

ता अ॒ल॒न॒त व॒यु॒नं वी॒र॒व॒क्ष॒णं स॒मा॒न्या वृ॒त॒या वि॒श्व॒मा र॒जः ॥

अ॒पो अ॒पा॒ची॒र॒प॒रा अ॒पे॒ज॒ते ग॒ प्र पू॒र्वा॒मि॒स्ति॒र॒ते दे॒व॒यु॒र्ज॒नः ॥

V-48-2

These Vedas have, with uniform light, spread over the whole world; they have disseminated the wisdom that inspires the brave. With these ancient scriptures the pious devotee expands his knowledge and keeps away from all errors of understanding (or from later writings of inferior worth).

WILSON:

These dawns diffuse the consciousness that is apprehended by pious men, and (overspread) the whole world with uniform investing (light): the devout man disregards the dawns which have turned back, and (those which) are to come, and improves (his understanding) by those which have proceeded.

GRIFITH:

Over all the region with their uniform advance these have spread out the lore that giveth heroes strength

Back, with their course reversed, the others pass away: the pious lengthen life with those that are before.

स्वस्ति ण्यामनु चरेम सूर्याचन्द्रमसोरिव ।  
 पुनर्ददातामता जानता सं गमिमहि ॥

V-51-15

Like the sun and the moon may we forge along the path to our final and eternal well-being, and may we be joined with God and godly people who are tireless in giving again and again, who never harm and ever recognize us as their own

WILSON

May we ever follow prosperously our path, like the sun and the moon may we be associated with a requiting, grateful and recognizant kinsman

GRIFFITH

Like the sun and the moon may we pursue in full prosperity our path,

And meet with one who gives again, who knows well and slays us not

आर्पय॑यो वि॒प॒य॒योऽन्त॑स्प॒था अनु॑प॒थाः ।

ए॒तेमि॒र्मह्यं॑ चा॒मभि॑र्य॒ज्ञं वि॑ष्ट॒र ओ॑ह॒ते ॥

V-52-10

This vast expanse of Scriptures—containing sometimes circuitous descriptions, sometimes digressions, sometimes short-cuts, sometimes systematic explanations—brings the adorable God closer to me through their being no more than His names.

WILSON:

(Whether), following the paths that lead (to us), or that spread diversely, or those that sink into the hollows (of the mountain), or those that extend smoothly, they, (however), scattered, accept the sacrifice for my benefit, (when invoked by these appellations).

GRIFFITH:

Whether as wanderers from the sky or speeders on or to the path,

Under these names the spreading band tend well the sacrifice for me.

MAX MÜLLER:

Call them comers, or goers, or enterers, or followers, under all these names, they watch on the straw for my sacrifice.

शर्धं<sup>१</sup> शर्धं<sup>१</sup> व एषां<sup>१</sup> व्रातं<sup>१</sup> व्रातं<sup>१</sup> गण<sup>१</sup>द्व॑णं सुश॒स्तिभिः॑ ।  
 अनु॑ क्रमे॒म धी॒तिभिः॑ ॥

V-53-11

By virtue of our laudable deeds or hymns, O ye Maruts, may  
 we grow from strength to strength and outstrip all communities,  
all races

WILSON

Let us wait with sacred praises and holy rites upon your several  
 strength, and separate troop, and individual company.

GRIFFITH

With eulogies and hymns may we follow your army, troop by  
 troop, and band by band,  
 And company by company

MAX MÜLLER:

Let us then follow with our praises and our prayers each host  
 of yours, each troop, each company



न स जी॑यते म॒रुतो न ह॑न्यते न स्त्रे॑धाति न व्य॑यते न रि॑प्यति ।  
 नास्य॒ राय॒ उप॑ दस्यन्ति नोतय॒ ऋषि॑ वा यं राजा॑नं वा सु॒पू॒दय ॥

V-54-7

The sage or the sovereign whom you bless, ye Maruts, is never vanquished, never slain, never perishes, never suffers from any anguish, and never wanes his riches never dwindle—nor do your bounties on him

WILSON

The sage, or the sovereign, whom you, Maruts, direct, is never overcome or slain he perishes not, nor suffers pain, nor undergoes injury, nor are his riches or his safety imperilled

GRIFFITH

Never is he, O Maruts, slain or overcome, never doth he decay, ne'er is distressed or harmed,

His treasures, his resources, never waste away, whom, whether he be prince or Rishi, ye direct

MAX MÜLLER

That man, O Maruts, is not overpowered, he is not killed, he does not fail, he does not shake, he does not drop, his goods do not perish, nor his protections, if you lead him rightly, whether he be a seer or a king

प्रवत्वंतीयं पृथिवी मरुद्भ्यः प्रवत्वंती द्यौर्भवति अयद्भ्यः ।

प्रवत्वंतीः पथ्या अन्तरिक्ष्याः प्रवत्वंतः पर्वता जीरदानव ॥

V-54-9

It is at the instance of Maruts that this vast earth bestows all its bounties on His devotees, this spacious firmament too. At the bidding of the Maruts it is that the infinite space of the mid-regions and the endless chains of mountains readily give their very best to the devotees.

WILSON

Thus wide-extended earth is for the Maruts, the spacious heaven is for the spreading winds, the paths of the firmament are provided (for their course), for them the expanding clouds quickly bestow (their gifts).

GRITTIH

Free for the Maruts is the earth with sloping ways, free for the rushing Ones in heaven with steep descents.

The paths of air's mid-region are precipitous, precipitous the mountains with their running streams.

MAX MÜLLER

When the Maruts come forth this earth bows, the heaven bows, the paths in the sky bow, and the cloud mountains with their quickening rain.

त्वेपं गणं तवसं खादिहस्तं धुनिव्रतं मायिनं दातिवारम् ।

मयोमुवो ये अमिता महित्वा वन्दस्व विप्र तुविराघसो नृन् ॥

V-58-2

Deeply versed Brahmin, adore that brilliant and mighty band of leading Lights, profound in wisdom, who control their senses, mind and body, who, like rivers are dedicated to the service of the world, who, unrivalled in munificence, confer on us all true felicity, whose greatness is unfathomable, who are most contented

WILSON

Adore, priest, the resplendent and powerful company, whose arms (are decorated) with bracelets, whose function is the agitation (of the trees), who are wise, and by whom wealth is conferred they who are bestowers of felicity, whose greatness is unbounded glorify the opulent leaders (of rites)

GRIFFITH

The mighty glittering band, arm-bound with bracelets, givers of bliss, unmeasured in their greatness,

With magical powers, bountiful, ever-roaring,—these liberal Heroes, venerate thou singer

MAX MULLER

The terrible company, the powerful, adorned with quoits on their hands, given to roaring, potent, dispensing treasures, they who are beneficent, infinite in greatness, praise, O poet, these men of great wealth!

ऋतेन॑ ऋतमपि॑ हितं॒ ध्रुवं॒ वां॒ सूर्य॑स्य॒ यत्र॑ विमुचन्त्यश्वा॑न् ।  
 दश॑ श॒ता सह॒ तस्थु॑स्तदेकं॑ दे॒वानां॒ श्रेष्ठं॒ वपु॑षामपश्यम् ॥

V-62-1

I have beheld that One Supreme Matrix of all Divine manifestations—that immutable, imperishable Being, by whom the eternal order of this universe is dominated, by whose support the thousand and one deities are what they are.

WILSON

I have beheld the permanent orb of the sun, your (dwelling place), concealed by water, where (the hymns of the pious) liberate (his) steeds, where a thousand rays abide together, the one most excellent of the (embodied) forms of the gods

GRIFFITH

By your high Law firm order is established there where they loose for travel Surya's horses

Ten hundred stood together there I looked on this the most marvellous Deities' one chief glory

आ यद्गामीयचक्षसा मित्रं वयं च सुर्यः ।

व्यचिष्टे बहुपाय्ये यते महि स्वराज्ये ॥

V-66-6

O Mitra and Varuna! Along with the sages we invoke you who (alone) can dower us with the right vision, so that we may strive heart and soul for self-sovereignty, which, open to all, has to be jealously guarded and preserved by each and every one.

Or

O Mitra and Varuna! Along with the sages we invoke you who (alone) can dower us with the right vision: may we make united efforts to establish firmly self-rule, which deserves to be honoured by all and needs to be strengthened with great vigilance by each and everyone

WILSON

We and the devout (invoke) you, Mitra and Varuna, who are far-seeing: may we proceed to your spacious and much frequented kingdom.

GRIFFITH.

Mitra, ye Gods with wandering eyes, would that the worshippers and we

Might strive to reach the realm ye rule, most spacious and protected well.

युञ्जते म॑न॒ उ॒त यु॑ञ्जते॒ धियो॒ वि॒प्रा वि॒प्रस्य॑ बृ॒हतो वि॑प॒श्चितः॑ ।  
 वि॒ हो॒त्रा द॒धे त्रयु॒नावि॒देक॒ इ॒न्मही॒ दे॒वस्य॑ स॒वितुः॑ परि॑ष्टुतिः ॥

V-81-1

It is at the bidding, and for the pleasure, of the great, all-knowing and just God that the wise apply their minds and devote themselves (their energies) to work, who else has assigned to each one of us his calling! Truly, endless is the praise of God, our Creator (Savitar)

WILSON

The wise apply their minds, they perform sacred rites for the propitiation of the intelligent, great, adorable Savitr! he alone, knowing their functions, directs the priests verily, great is the praise of the divine Savitr!

GRIFFITH

The priests of him the lofty Priest well-skilled in hymns  
 harness their spirit, yea, harness their holy thoughts  
 He only knowing works assigns their priestly tasks Yea, lofty  
 is the praise of Savitar the God

विश्वा॑ रूपाणि॒ प्रति॑ मुञ्चते॒ कविः॑ आसा॒वीर्य॒द्रुं द्वि॒पदे॒ चतु॑ष्पदे ।  
 वि ना॒कम॑ख्यत्सवि॒ता वरे॑ण्यो ऽनु॑ प्रयाण॑मुपसो॒ वि रा॑जति ॥

V-81-2

The all-knowing, Omnipotent Author of all being (Savitar) manifests all forms, He creates all things that are good for bipeds and quadrupeds. He alone experiences unmingled bliss. In the hour of Dawn how easily He flashes in our minds!

WILSON

The wise Savitri comprehends all forms (in himself) he has engendered what is good for biped and quadruped the adorable Savitri has illumed the heaven, and shines in sequence to the passage of the Dawn

GRIFFITH

The Sapient One arrays himself in every form for quadruped and biped he has brought forth good

Excellent Savitar hath looked on heaven's high vault, and shineth after the outgoing of the Dawn

यस्य प्रयाणमन्य इद्युर्देवा देवस्य महिमानमोजसा ।

यः पार्थिवानि विममे स एतेशो रजांसि देवः सविता महित्वना ॥

V-81-3

Most flawless is that God, the Cosmos' Demiurge, who by His power has created all the terrestrial regions, in whose trail alone all the other gods follow, and by whose might they hold their eminent status

WILSON

After the passage of which divine (being) the other deities proceed to (obtain) majesty with power, he who by his greatness has measured out the terrestrial regions, the divine Savitri (is) resplendent

GRIFFITH

Even he, the God whose going forth and majesty the other Deities have followed with their might,

He who hath measured the terrestrial regions out by his great power, he is the Courser Savitar



अ॒र्य॒म्यं॑ व॒रु॒ण मि॒त्र्यं॑ वा स॒खायं॑ वा स॒द॒मि॒द् भ्रा॒तरं॑ वा ।

वे॒शं वा॒ नित्यं॑ व॒रु॒णार॑णं वा यत्सी॒माग॑श्च॒कृ॒मा शि॒श्र॒य॒स्तत् ॥

V-85-7

Whatever wrong we may have done to our all-time benefactor, to friend, companion, brother, long-standing neighbour, or more than all, to the meek and lowly, O Varuna, wipe off that sin out of us, in Thy Grace

WILSON

If Varuna, we have ever committed an offence against a benefactor, a friend, a companion, a brother, a near neighbour, or, Varuna, a dumb man, remove it from us

GRIFFITH

If we have sinned against the man who loves us, have ever wronged a brother, friend, or comrade,

The neighbour ever with us, or a stranger, O Varuna, remove from us the trespass

GELDNER, KAEGI, ROTH

"If we to any dear and loved companion  
Have evil done, to brother or to neighbour,

To our own countryman or to a stranger,  
That sin do thou, O Varuna, forgive us "

THOMAS

What sin we have ever committed against an intimate,  
O Varuna, against a friend or companion at any time, a brother,  
a neighbour, or a stranger, that, O Varuna, loose from us

*Selections from*  
*Mandala VI*

पदं देवस्य नमसा व्यन्तः श्रवस्यवः श्रवं वापन्नमृत्तम् ।  
 नामानि चिदधिरे यज्ञियानि भद्रायां ते रणयन्त सन्दधै ॥

VI-1-4

Those who surrender themselves to the feet of God with humility, listening enrapt to His stainless glories and chanting His holy names, will surely rejoice in the Vision Beatific

WILSON

Men desirous of food obtain abundance unopposed when repairing to the station of the divinity with oblations, and when delighting, Agni, in thy auspicious presence, they repeat those thy names which are to be uttered at sacrifices

GRIFFITH

They who approached the God's abode with homage, eager for glory, won them perfect glory

Yea, they gained even sacrificial titles and found delight in thine auspicious aspect

पदं देवस्य नमसा व्यन्तः श्रवस्यवः श्रयं आपन्नमृत्तम् ।  
 नामानि चिदाधिरे यज्ञियानि भद्रायां ते रणयन्तु सन्दष्टौ ॥

VI-1-4

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 thine auspicious aspect

अ॒श्याम॒ तं का॒र्म॒मग्ने॒ तवो॒ती अ॒श्याम॑ र॒थि र॒थिवः॑ सु॒वीर॑म् ।  
 अ॒श्याम॒ वा॒ज॒म॒भि वा॒ज॒य॒न्तोऽश्याम॑ धु॒म्न॒म॒ज॒रा॒ज॒रं ते ॥

VI-5-7

God, our great beacon, may we, through Thy grace, have our desires fulfilled<sup>1</sup> Lord of wealth infinite, may we acquire wealth and beget heroic progeny, may we partake of food only after it has been generously served to all Spirit Eternal, may we through Thy Grace win to eternal Good<sup>1</sup>

WILSON

May we obtain through thy protection, Agni, that which we desire giver of riches, may we obtain of thee riches and descendants desiring food, may we obtain food may we obtain, imperishable Agni, imperishable fame (through thee)

GRIFFITH

Help us, that we may gain this wish, O Agni, gain riches, Wealthy One<sup>1</sup> with store of heroes

Desiring strength from thee may we be strengthened and win, 'Eternal'<sup>1</sup> thine eternal glory

स चित्रं चित्रं चितयन्तामस्मे चित्रक्षत्रं चित्रतमं वयोधाम् ।  
चन्द्रं रयिं पुंस्वीरं वृहन्तं चन्द्रं चन्द्राभिर्गृणते युवस्र ॥

VI-6-7

Marvellous Agni, of most marvellous strength, O Thou Fount of Bliss, confer upon us, who adore Thee with thrilling hymns that choicest wealth, vast and varied, which, rousing in us awesome reverence, wins for us immortality and makes us invincible

WILSON

Wonderful Agni, of wonderful strength, bestower of delight, grant to us, and to him who praises thee with gratifying (praises), wonderful, most wonderful riches, conferring fame, supplying food, comprehending male descendants, delectable and infinite

GRIFFITH

Wondrous! of wondrous power! give to the singer wealth wondrous, marked, most wonderful, life-giving

Wealth bright, O Bright One, vast, with many heroes, give with thy bright flames to the man who lauds thee

मूर्धनं दिवो अरतिं पृथिव्या वैश्वानरमृत वा जातमाग्निम् ।  
 कविं सम्राजमतिथिं जनानामासन्ना पात्रं जनयन्त देवाः ॥

VI-7-1

With their vocal organs Divine beings made manifest God, the Guide Supreme, situated in the heart of every human; who is Heaven's crown and earth's base, the ideal mark of all worship, an effulgent Presence in hearts dedicated to Him, who though Omniscient and omnipotent, is yet the easily accessible Guest of all.

WILSON.

The gods have generated Vaishwanara, Agni, as the brow of heaven, the unceasing pervader of earth, born for (the celebration of) sacrifice, wise, imperial, the guest of men, in whose mouth (is) the vessel (that conveys the oblation to the gods).

GRIFITH.

Him, messenger of earth and head of heaven, Agni Vaisvanara, born in holy Order,

The Sage, the King, the guest of men, a vessel fit for their mouths, the Gods have generated



नामिं<sup>१</sup> य॒ज्ञानां स॒देनं र॒यीणां म॒हामाहा॒वममि सं न॑वन्त ।

वै॒श्वान॒रं र॒थ्यम॒ध्वराणां<sup>१</sup> य॒ज्ञस्य॑ के॒तुं ज॑नयन्त दे॒वाः ॥

VI-7-2

Saintly souls hymn and behold God, installed in all, invoked all great sages, the treasure-house of all wealth, the Source, Centre by and Goal of every worship and sacred rite

WILSON

The (worshippers) glorify together, (Agni), the bond of sacrifices, the abode of riches, the great receptacle of burnt-offerings the gods generate Vaishwanara, the conveyor of oblations, the emblem of sacrifice

GRIFFITH

Him have they praised, mid-point of sacrifices, great cistern of libations, seat of riches

Vaisvanara, conveyor of oblations, ensign of worship have the Gods engendered

वि मे कर्णा पतयतो वि चक्षुर्वी॑ दं ज्योतिर्हृदय॑ आहि॑तं यत् ।  
 वि मे मनश्चरति दूर॑आधीः किं स्वि॑द्वक्ष्यामि किमु॑ नू म॑निष्ये ॥

VI-9-6

My ears recoil from the Light that is installed in my heart  
 my eyes, too, turn away from it, my mind is baffled by it For all  
 my brilliant intellect, I am far away from it How can I describe  
 it? How can I think of it?

WILSON

Mine ears are turned (to hear him), mine eyes (to behold him),  
 this light that is placed in the heart (seeks to know him), my  
 mind, the receptacle of distant (objects), hastens (towards him)  
 what shall I declare (him)? how shall I comprehend him?

GRIFFITH

Mine ears unclose to hear, mine eye to see him, the light  
 that harbours in my spirit broadens

Far roams my mind whose thoughts are in the distance what  
 shall I speak, what shall I now imagine?

व॒प्रा सु॑नो सह॒स्रो नो॒ विहा॑या अ॒ग्रे' तो॒कं तन॑यं वा॒जि नो॑ दाः ।  
 वि॒श्वामि॑र्गा॒भि॒र॒भि पृ॑त्तिर्म॒द्यां म॒दे'म शु॒तहि॑माः सु॒तीर्गः ॥

VI-13-6

Mighty Agni, Son of strength, reveal unto us the (tru-) spiritual path. Bless **us** with sons and grandsons, together with abundant food. May we, through our prayers, attain perfection. May we, along with valiant sons, be crowned with happiness for a hundred years.

WILSON

Agni, Son of strength, do thou who art mighty be our councillor! give us sons and grandsons, together with food : may I, by all my praises, obtain the fulfilment of my desires : may we, blessed with excellent male descendants, enjoy happiness for a hundred winters.

GRIFFITH

Eloquent, Son of Strength, Most Mighty, Agni, vouchsafe us seed and offspring, full of vigour.

May I by all my songs obtain abundance. May brave sons gladden us through a hundred winters.

अच्छा नो मित्रमहो देव देवानग्ने वोचः सुमतिं रोदस्योः ।

वीहि स्वस्ति सुक्षितिं दिवो नृन्दिषो अहांसि खिदुरिता तरेम ता तरेम  
तवावसा तरेम ॥

VI-14-6

God Agni, our Guide *par excellence*, Friend with sovereign benevolence, we pray Thee, declare Thy Grace to all gods and all beings godly of Heaven and earth Confer on us heavenly bliss and a secure life here below May we, through Thy Grace, be rid of our sins, vanquish all enemies, may we overcome all adversities, —yea, overcome all adversities!

WILSON

Divine Agni, revered as a friend, who, abiding in heaven and earth, communicates our praise to the gods, conduct the offerer of adoration to domestic felicity, and may we overcome our adversaries, our iniquities, our difficulties, may we overcome them by thy protection

GRIFFITH

O Agni, God with Mitra's might, call hither the favour of the Gods from earth and heaven

Bring weal from heave that men may dwell securely May we o'ercome the foe's malign oppressions, may we o'ercome them, through thy help o'ercome them

अग्निमग्निं वः समिवा दुवस्यत प्रियं प्रियं वो अतिं विं गृणीषणि ।  
 उप वो गीर्भिरमृतं विवासत देवो देवेषु वर्तते हि वायं ।  
 देवो देवेषु वर्तते हि नो दुर्वः ॥

VI-15-6

With your flaming intellect (with fuel) worship the Light of lights, with reverence profound attend on this Guest, thrice dear and most adorable Invoke this Immortal Being with your chants of deep fervour For, verily, this God of gods is in love with our devotion this God of gods loves our whole-hearted dedication.

WILSON

Worship repeatedly the adorable Agni with fuel, (him) who is ever your dear friend, your guest approach the immortal Agni with praises, for he, a god among gods, accepts our homage

GRIFFITH

Worship ye Agni, Agni, with your log of wood, praise your beloved, your beloved guest with songs

Invite, ye the immortal hither with your hymns A God among the Gods, he loveth what is choice, loveth our service, God and Gods

तं व इन्द्रं च॒तिर्नमस्य॑ श॒कैरि॒ह नूनं॑ वा॒जयन्तो॑ हुवेम ।  
 यया॑ चि॒त्पूर्वे॑ ज॒रितार॑ आ॒सुस्ने॑धा अन॒वद्या॑ अरि॑णः ॥

VI-19-4

Yearning for strength, let us here and now worship with all our powers (of body, mind and heart) Indra, the Supreme Lord, Slayer of enemies Like the holy seers, may we be free from all reproach, from (the least propensity to) sin and truculence

WILSON

Desiring sustenance, we invoke thee, the renowned Indra, on this occasion, the destroyer (of enemies), together with his powerful allies (the Maruts) as his ancient adorers have been, (may we be), exempt from blame, irreproachable, unharmed

GRIFFITH

Now, fain for strength, let us invite your Indra hither who lieth hidden with his Heroes

Free from all blame, without reproach, uninjured, e'en as were those who sang, of old, his praises

आ ते शु॒भ्रो' वृ॒षम ए॒तु प॒श्चादो॒त्तरा॒द॒धरा॒दा पु॒रस्ता॑त् ।  
 आ वि॒श्वतो' अ॒मि स॒मे॒त्वर्वा॒दिन्द्र' द्यु॒मं स्व॑र्वदे॒ह्यस्मे ॥

VI-19-9

Spirit Supreme, may Thy strength come to us from behind us, from above us, from below, from before—from every side. Grant us Knowledge effulgent.

WILSON:

May thine invigorating strength come from the west, from the north, from the south, from the east; may it come to us from every quarter; grant us riches combined with felicity.

GRIFFITH:

Let thine heroic strength come from behind us, before us, from above us or below us.

From every side may it approach us, Indra. Give us the glory of the realm of splendour.

त्वद्द्वि॒येन्द्र॒ पार्थि॑वानि॒ विश्वा॑च्यु॒ता चि॒ज्याव॑यन्ते॒ रजा॑सि ।  
 द्यावा॒क्षामा॒ पर्व॑तासो॒ वना॑नि॒ विश्वं॑ दृ॒ळ्हं म॑यते॒ अज्म॑न्ना ते ॥

VI-31-2

Through fear of Thee, Supreme Lord (Indra), all earthly things that are firm move even the minutest particles move from fear of Thee Heaven and earth, mountains and forests—why, the entire cosmos—stand firm at Thy bidding, and move from fear of Thee!

WILSON

Through fear of thee, Indra, all the regions of the firmament cause the unfallen (rain) to descend the heavens, the earth, the mountains, the forests, all the solid (Universe) is alarmed at thy approach

GRIFFITH

Through fear of thee, O Indra, all the regions of earth, though naught may move them, shake and tremble All that is firm is frightened at thy coming,—the earth, the heaven, the mountain, and the forest

GILDNER, KAEGI AND ROTH

Through fear of thee upon the earth is shaken Even the immovable,—the ether,—all things.

The earth, the heavens, mountains, forests tremble, The firm foundation trembles at thy going



स्वादुक्किलयं गधुमो॑ उ॒तायं ती॒व्रं किल॑यं रस॑वो॒ उ॒तायम् ।  
 उ॒तो न्व॑र॒स्य प॑पि॒वांस॒मिन्द्रं॑ न कश्च॒न स॑हत आ॒हवे॒पु ॥

VI-47-1

Most delicious is this *Soma*, most sweet what uncanny  
 vigour it inspires! It is, indeed, ambrosial None can encounter  
 Indra in battle, for hasn't he drunk deep of this!

WILSON

Savoury indeed is this (*Soma*) sweet is it, sharp, and full of  
 vigour no one is able to encounter Indra in battles after he has  
 been quaffing this (beverage)

GRIFFITH

Yea, this is good to taste and full of sweetness, verily it is strong  
 and rich in flavour

No one can conquer Indra in the battle when he hath drunken  
 of the draught we offer

अयं मे' पीत उदियति वाचमयं मेनीषामुशतीभजीगः ।

अयं षड्वीरमिमीत घीरो न याम्यो सुवनं कचनारे ॥

VI-47-3

*This Soma, when drunk, rouses me to (wondrous) eloquence  
He keeps my intellect ever wakeful and brilliant The Omni-  
scient God has created those six states from whose universal  
sway no living being is exempt*

WILSON

*This beverage inspires my speech, this develops the desired  
intelligence the sagacious (Soma) has created the six vast condi-  
tions from which no creature is distinct*

GRATIA

*This stretch up my voice when I have drunk it, this hath  
aroused from sleep my yearning spirit*

*This Sage hath measured out the six expanses from which no  
single creature is excluded*

अ॒यं स॒ यो व॑रि॒माणं॑ शृ॒यि॒त्या व॒र्ष्माणं॑ दि॒वो अ॒कृ॒णो॒दयं॑ मः ।

अ॒यं पी॒यूषं॑ ति॒मृ॒षु श्र॒वत्सु॑ सो॒मो दा॒धारो॒र्व॒न्तरि॑क्षम् ॥

VI-47-4

He it is who has created this earth, so vast, so excellent,  
He it is who has given the sky its wondrous form, He it is who  
has enshrined ambrosial wisdom in the three Vedas, Scriptures  
beyond compare He alone holds aloft the wide firmament

WILSON

This it is which has formed the expanse of the earth, the  
compactness of the heaven this *Soma* has deposited the ambrosia  
in its three principal (receptacles), and has upheld the spacious  
firmament

GRIFFITH

This, even this, is he who hath created the breadth of earth, the  
lofty height of heaven

He formed the nectar in three headlong rivers *Soma* supports  
the wide mid-air above us

इन्द्र प्र णं पु॒र॒ए॒ते॒र्वा॒ पश्य॒ प्र नो॑ नय॒ प्र॒तरं॒ वस्यो॒ अच्छ॑ ।  
मवा॑ सु॒पा॒रो अ॑ति॒पा॒स्यो नो॒ मवा॒ सुनी॑ति॒स्त वामनी॑तिः ॥

VI-47-7

Almighty God (Indra), like a guide who leads the way, keep  
Thy watchful eye on us With fond care conduct us to the high-  
est Good,—Good infinite Great saviour, take us across the sea of  
troubles Be Thou, our wisest mentor, and as such pilot us to the  
Final Bliss that all hunger for

WILSON

Like one who goes before us Indra, (on the road), look out,  
bring before us infinite wealth, be our conductor beyond  
the bounds (of want), convey us safely over (peril) be our careful  
guide, our guide to durable (affluence)

उ॒रुं नो॑ लो॒कमनु॑ ने॒पि वि॒द्वान्तस्व॑र्व॒ज्ज्योति॑र॒मयं॑ स्व॒स्ति ।  
 ऋ॒षा त॑ इन्द्र॒ स्यवि॑रस्य वा॒ह उ॒प॑ स्वेयाम शर॒णा बृ॒हन्ता॑ ॥

VI-47-8

Omniscient God, lead us, we pray, to the highest world along the right path—world which is the abode of the All-Independent Sovereign Being, which is at once Light (ineffable), Safety (supreme) and Bliss (inexhaustible) We surrender ourselves absolutely and unconditionally to the all-protecting, mighty arms of Thine that art eternal

WILSON:

Do thou, Indra, who art wise, conduct us to the spacious world (of heaven), to a blessed state of happiness, light and safety: may we recline in the graceful, protecting, and mighty arms of thee the ancient one.

GRIFFITH:

Lead us to ample room, O thou who knowest, to happiness, security, and sunlight.

High, Indra, are the arms of thee the Mighty: may we betake us to their lofty shelter.

इन्द्रं मृळं मह्यं जीवातुमिच्छ चोदय धियमयेसो न धाराम् ।  
यकिञ्चाहं त्वायुरिदं वदामि तज्जुषस्त कृषि मां देववन्तम् ॥

VI-47-10

God Omnipotent (Indra), vouchsafe me Bliss highest with Thy Grace, make me immortal, sharpen my intellect like the steel's edge Whatever I may utter, in my yearning for Thee, deign to accept, enable me to attain Thee (lit attain God)

WILSON

Make me happy, Indra, be pleased to prolong my life, sharpen my intellect like the edge of an iron sword whatsoever, desirous (of propitiating) thee I may utter, be pleased by it render me the object of divine protection

GRIFFITH

Be gracious, Indra, let my days be lengthened sharpen my thought as 'twere a blade of iron  
Approve whatever words I speak, dependent on thee, and grant me thy divine protection

शृण्वे वीर उग्रमुग्रं दमायन्नन्यमन्यमतिनेनीयमानः ।

एधमानद् द्विदुभयस्य राजा चोष्कृत्यते विश इन्द्रो मनुष्यान् ॥

VI-47-16

God, stern and mighty, is set forth as ruthlessly crushing the villainous and raising to lofty heights those that are their very antithesis (i.e. the most righteous) Indra, King over both weal and woe, who hates haughty pretenders to greatness, casts the muddling good into a state of tangled joy and sorrow

WILSON

The hero Indra is renowned humiliating every formidable (foe), and repeatedly changing the place of one (worshipper) with that of another, Indra, the enemy of the arrogant, the sovereign of both (heaven and earth), calls again and again (to encourage) the men who are his worshippers

GRIFFITH

Famed is the Hero as each strong man's tamer, ever advancing one and then another

King of both worlds, hating the high and haughty, Indra protects the men who are his people

GILDNER, KAEGI, ROTH

The hero—listen—overcomes the mighty,  
Now to the front brings one and now another,  
The lord of both the worlds hates all the haughty,  
He cares for those who feel themselves but human

परा पूर्वे॑षा स॒ख्या वृ॑णक्ति त्रि॒तु॑रा॒णो अप॑रेभिरेति ।  
 अ॒ना॒नु॒मृ॒ती॒रव॑धू॒न्वानः॑ पू॒र्वी॒रिन्द्रः॑ श॒रद॑स्तर्त॒रीति॑ ॥

VI-47-17

The Almighty (Indra), avoiding any friendship with the former (i.e. the wicked), intimately associates Himself with the pious and showers blessings on them. Scorning those that are utterly devoid of Wisdom, He lives gloriously over untold years (i.e. to all eternity)

WILSON

Indra rejects the friendship of those who are foremost (in pious acts) and despoiling them, associates with (their) inferiors or (again) shaking off those who neglect his worship, Indra abides many years with those who serve him

GRIFITH

He loves no more the men he loved aforetime he turns and moves away allied with others

Rejecting those who disregard his worship, Indra victorious lives through many autumns



धन्व॑ना॒ गा धन्व॑नाजि॒ जये॑म धन्व॑ना ती॒व्राः सम॑दो॒ जये॑म ।

धनुः॑ शत्रो॒रप॑का॒मं कृ॑णोति धन्व॑ना सर्वाः॑ प्र॒दिशो॑ जये॑म ॥

VI-75-2

With our bow may we conquer realm after realm, with it win our battle, putting to rout hosts, fierce and furious The bow alone can thwart hosts fierce and bellicose The bow alone can thwart the enemy's dark designs, with the bow may we conquer on every hand, and the remotest quarters

WILSON

May we conquer the cattle (of the enemies) with the bow with the bow may we be victorious in battle may we overcome our fears—exulting (enemies) with the bow may the bow disappoint the hope of the foe may we subdue with the bow all (hostile) countries

GRIFFITH

With Bow let us win kine, with Bow the battle, with Bow be victorious in our hot encounters

The Bow brings grief and sorrow to the foeman aimed with the Bow may we subdue all regions

Muir

May I the foeman's malice foil  
With this my all subduing bow¹

May I, triumphant, lay him low,  
And all his goods and cattle spoil!  
Thus bow our foes with rum whelms,  
And conquers all surrounding realms.

स्वा॒दु॒प॒स॒दः पि॒त्रो॑ वयो॒धाः कृ॒च्छ्रे॒श्रितः॒ शर्त्त॑व॒न्तो ग॒भी॒राः ।  
 'चि॒त्र॒से' ना इ॒ष्टु॒व॒ला अ॒मृ॒त्राः स॒तो॒वी॒रा उ॒र॒वो॑ ब्रा॒त॒सा॒हाः ॥

VI-75-9

Love and respect society; protect it by feeding the hungry and succouring the distressed May you have strength and might to be employed for noble and righteous causes, with valiant fighters of diverse persuasions and leanings rallying to your call (or may your phalanx be invincible); may you be armed with mighty weapons. Never succumb to your enemies; let your courage soar high in espousing a great cause, summon up your innate greatness. Lead and guide the wayward, straggling ✓ masses.

WILSON:

The guards (of the chariot), revelling in the savoury (spoil), distributors of food, protectors in calamity, armed with spears, resolute, beautifully arranged, strong in arrows, invincible, of heroic valour, robust, and conquerors of numerous hosts

GRAHAM:

In sweet association lived the fathers who gave us life, profound and strong in trouble

Unwearied, armed with shafts and wondrous weapons, free, real heroes, conquerors of armies.

ब्राह्मणासः पितॄ सोम्यासः शिवे नो द्यावापृथिवी अनेहसा ।  
 पूषा नः पातु दुरिताद् ऋतावृधो रक्षा माकिर्नो अवशं स ईशतं ॥

VI-75-10

Strive to be Brahmins worthy of the name, by making eternal  
values prevail, by being calm and silent benefactors of all, may  
 Heaven and Earth, cleansed of all stain, become for us abodes  
 most blissful May God, All-Perfect, so guard every one of us  
 from sin, that the ruffian who unleashes brutality and violence  
 will have no power whatsoever over us

WILSON

May the Brahmins, the progenitors, presenters of the *Soma*,  
 the observers of truth, protect us may the faultless heaven  
 and earth be propitious to us may Pushan preserve us from  
 misfortune, let no calumniator prevail over us

GRIFFITH

The Brahmins, and the Fathers meet for Soma draughts, and  
graciously inclined, unequalled Heaven and Earth  
 Guard us from evil, Pushan guard us strengtheners of Law  
 let not the evil-wisher master us

हस्त॑घ्नो विश्वा॑ व॒युना॑नि वि॒द्वान् पु॒मन्पु॒मांसं॑ पारि॑ पातु वि॒श्वतः॑ ॥

VI-75-14

Let him who is master of all knowledge take it on himself to guard the common man from evil, in every possible way, from whatever quarter it might come

WILSON

May the brave man, experienced in the art of war, defend a combatant on every side

GRIFFITH

So may the Brave, well-skilled in all its duties, guard manfully the man from every quarter

यो नः स्वो अरणो यश्च निष्ट्यो जिघांसति ।  
 देवास्तं सर्वे धूर्वन्तु ब्रह्म वर्म ममान्तरम् ॥

VI-75-19

May the gods keep far away from me such of my kinsfolk as  
 are consumed by intolerant jealousy towards me, and equally,  
 the ambushed foe out to slay me Be this heartfelt prayer of mine  
my invulnerable armour

WILSON

Whoever, whether an unfriendly relative or a stranger,  
 desires to kill us, may all the gods destroy him prayer is my best  
armour

GRIFFITH

Whoso would kill us, whether he be a strange foe or one of  
 us,

May all the Gods discomfit him My nearest, closest Mail is  
prayer

*Selections from  
Mandala VII*

मा नो॑ अग्नेऽवीर॑ते परा॑ दा दुर्व॑स॒सेऽम॑तये मा नो॑ अ॒स्यै ।

मा नः॑ क्षु॒धे मा र॒क्षसं॑ ऋता॒वो मा नो॑ द॒मे मा व॒न आ जु॑ह्व॒र्याः

VII-1-19

God of gods (Agni), doom us not to the plight of being unheroic, nor to live in the midst of squalor, or wear grimy clothes, with folly, ignorance and destitution as our portion Guardian of eternal Law and Righteousness, deliver us not to miscreants Visit not on us any calamity, either at home or in the jungle

WILSON

Relinquish us not, Agni, to the want of male offspring nor to deficient clothing nor to such destruction leave us not to hunger, nor to the *Rakshasas* expose us not, observer of truth, to evil, whether in the house or in the forest

GRIFFITH

Give us not up, Agni, to want of heroes, to wretched clothes, to need, to destitution

Yield us not, Holy One, to fiend or hunger, injure us not at home or in the forest



परिपिद्ये ह्यरणस्य रेक्णो नित्यस्य रायः पतयः स्याम ।

न शेपो' अग्ने अन्यजातमस्त्यचेतानस्य मा पथो वि दुक्षः ।

VII-4-7

The riches of a man free from debts is a noble possession indeed let us be masters of imperishable wealth O Agni, one born of others cannot be our own offspring, pray, do not rum us by taking us along the path of fools

WILSON

Wealth is competent to the acquittance of debt may we be masters of permanent riches that is not offspring which is begotten by another alter not the paths (of the generation) of a blockhead

GRIFFITH

The forger's treasure may be won with labour may we be masters of our own possessions

Agni, no son is he who springs from others lengthen not out the pathways of the foolish

न॒दि॒ प्र॒मा॒या॒णः सु॒श्रे॒योऽन्यो॒र्द॒यो म॒न॒या म॒न्त्रा उ॑ ।

अ॒र्धा चि॒दो॒क्तः पुन॒रि॒त्स ए॒त्या नो॑ वा॒ज्य॒भीष॑ष्टे॒ तु न॒यः ॥

VII-4-8

One free from debt is happy indeed, and one begotten of others should not for a moment be thought of (in our mind) as a thing to be possessed; for he goes to his natal house. May that God, all-powerful and all-conquering who is ever fresh and fire-new, come to us

आर्पश्चितिप्युः स्तर्यो॑ न गावो नक्षन्तुं जरितारस्त इन्द्र ।  
 याहि वायुर्न नियुतो॑ नो अच्छा त्वं हि धीभिर्दयसे वि वाजान् ॥

VII-23-4

Mere Karmas multiply like barren cows God omnipotent (Indra), those that sing Thee with devotion discover the Truth Now that Thou art fixed (in my heart, mind and senses), speed on to me with the swiftness of wind, and according to the intensity of my prayers bless me with manifold strength

WILSON

May the waters increase like young may thy worshippers, Indra, possess water (in abundance) Come like the wind with the *Nisut* steeds, for thou, (propitiated) by holy rites, verily bestowest upon us food

GRAHAM

Like barren cows, moreover, swelled the waters the singers sought thy holy rite, O Indra

Come unto us as with his team comes Vayu thou, through our solemn hymns bestowest booty

शं नो' दे॒वः स॒वि॒ता त्रा॒य॒मा॒णः शं नो' भवन्तु॒प॒सो' वि॒मा॒तीः ।

शं नः प॒र्जन्यो' भवतु प्र॒जा॒भ्यः शं नः क्षे॒त्र॒स्य प॒ति॒र॒स्तु श॒म्भुः ॥

VII-35-10

May the Lord, who has brought the Universe into being, so protect us that all (of us) may be happy; may each morn dawn-  
ing gloriously bright (*lit.* gloriously bright dawns) bring felicity  
to every one of us; may we (all) have abundant rains, may  
there be peace, safety and security to all (created) beings, may  
the lord of the soil (or owners of fields) raise crops enough to  
make all rejoice.

WILSON:

May the divine preserving Savitri be (radiant for) our happi-  
ness; may the opening dawns (break for) our happiness, may  
Parjanya be (the granter of happiness) to our posterity; may  
Shambhu, the lord of strength, be (the conferrer of) happiness  
upon us.

GRIFFITH:

Prosper us Savitar, the God who rescues, and let the radiant  
Mornings be propitious.

Auspicious to all creatures be Parjanya, auspicious be the field's  
benign Protector.

शं नो देवा विश्वदेवा भवन्तु शं सरस्वती सह धीमिरेस्तु ।  
 शर्मभिपाचः शमु सतिपाचः शं नो दिव्याः पार्थिवाः शं नो अप्याः ॥

VII-35-11

May God, the Sovereign Ruler of all, lead us to Happiness; may our learning, along with accordant actions, contribute to our well-being, may our servants and our masters be most genial and loving to us, may all things within the domains of light, water and earth bring joy and weal to all and each (to each and every one of us)

WILSON

May the divine universal gods be (favourable) to our felicity, may Saraswati, with holy rites, be happiness; may those who assist at sacrifices, those who are liberal of gifts, be (conductive to) our happiness, may celestial, terrestrial, and aquatic things be (subservient to) our happiness

CROMBIE

May all the fellow-ship of Gods befriend us, Saraswati, with  
 H is Th is is, be praiseworthy

How is be they, the Liberal Ones who seek us, yes, those  
 who are wherever, on earth, in waters

नू मर्तो<sup>१</sup> दयते सनिष्यन्तो विष्णवे उरुगायाय दाशत् ।  
 प्र यः सत्राचा मर्त्सा यजात एतावन्तं नर्य<sup>१</sup>माविवासात् ॥

VII-100-1

Will that man ever come to grief, who, filled with a divine yearning, dedicates himself to Vishnu, theme supreme of all sacred song, who worships Him with all his mind and heart and has devoted himself to serve all these people (His devotees)!

WILSON

The mortal desirous of wealth quickly obtains it who presents (offerings) to the widely renowned Vishnu, who worships him with entirely devoted mind, who adores so great a benefactor of mankind

GRIFFITH

Never doth the man repent, who seeking profit, bringeth his gift to the far-striding Vishnu  
 He who adoreth him with all his spirit winneth himself so great a benefactor

त्वं निष्णो मु॒म॒र्तिं वि॒श्व॒र्ज॒न्याम॒ग्र॒यु॒तामे॒रया॒नो म॒र्तिं द॑ाः ।  
 प॒चो॒ यया॑ नः सु॒रि॒तम्य॒ भूरे॒ष्वी॒तनः॑ पु॒रु॒श्च॒न्द्र॒स्य रा॒यः ॥

VII-100-2

O Vishnu, Cornucopia of all blessings! even as Thou hast lavished upon us mounts and chariots, wealth abundant, covetable, and gladdening beyond measure, do Thou grant us, too, wisdom par excellence and the will to serve all mankind, untouched by thought of self

WILSON

Vishnu, granter of desires, show to us that favourable disposition which is benevolent to all, un-mixed (with exception), so that there may be to us the attainment of easily-acquired, ample, stead-comprising, all delighting riches

GRIFITH

Thou, Vishnu, constant in Thy courses, gavest good-will to all men, and a hymn that lasteth,

That thou mightst move us to abundant comfort of very splendid wealth with horses

त्रिदे॒वः पृथि॒वीमे॒ष ए॒तां वि च॑क्रमे॒ शत॑र्च॒सं ग॒हृत्वा ।  
 प्र जिष्णु॑रस्तु॒ तव॑स॒स्तवी॒थान्त्वे॒षं ह्य॑स्य॒ स्थवि॑रस्य॒ नाम ॥

VII-100-3

By His transcending Greatness, God Vishnu bestrode in three  
 paces this entire cosmos with its myriad galaxies, may (that)  
 Vishnu, mightier than the mightiest, ever be to us God Supreme  
 Verily, the name of this Eternal, Unchangeable Being floods  
 my heart with Light ineffable

WILSON

This deity, by his great power, traversed with three (steps)  
 the many-lustrous earth, may Vishnu, the most powerful of the  
 powerful, rule over us, for illustrious is the name of the mighty  
 one

GRITTEN

Three times strode forth this God in all his grandeur over this  
 earth bright with a hundred splendours

Foremost be Vishnu, stronger than the strongest for glorious  
 ■ his name who lives for ever



कि॒मित्ते॑ वि॒ष्णो परि॒चक्ष्यं॑ मू॒त्य यद्द्व॑वक्षे शि॒पिवि॒ष्टो अ॑स्मि ।  
 मा व॑पो॑ अ॒स्मद॑र्ष॒ गूह॑ ए॒तद॑न्य॒रूपः॑ स॒मिथे॑ च॒मूय॑ ॥

VII-100-6

What high attribute can ever be denied Thee, O Vishnu, when Thou proclaimest: "Know I am Shipivishta" (i.e. "I pervade all rays meaning all things that shine either by resplendence or by their virtues"). Veil not from us that other form of Thine, which Thou didst manifest on the battlefield

WILSON:

What is to be proclaimed, Vishnu, of thee, when thou sayest, I am Shipivishta? Conceal not from us thy real form, although thou hast engaged under a different form in battle.

GRIFFITH:

What was there to be blamed in thee, O Vishnu, when thou declaredst, I am Shipivishta?

Hide not this from us, nor keep it secret, since thou didst wear another shape in battle.

ति॒स्रो वा॒चः प्र वे॒द ज्योति॑र॒ग्रा या ए॒तद्गु॒हे मधु॑दो॒षमृ॒षः ।  
 म व॒त्सं कृ॒ष्वन् गर्भ॑मोप॒धीनां॒ स॒द्यो जा॒तो वृ॒षमो॒ रो॒रवी॑ति ॥

VII-101-1

Kindly expound (to us) the three Vedas, packed with all-radiant wisdom, which are for us an udder (i.e. storehouse of rare excellences) milking unmingled bliss, then will He, who fulfils all desires, who makes seeds shoot forth into seedlings and saplings, spring up inordinately into our consciousness, inasmuch that He voices aloud His presence

यो वर्ध॑न ओष॑धीनां॒ यो अ॒पां यो वि॒श्वस्य॑ जग॑तो दे॒व ई॒शे ।  
 स त्रि॒धातु॑ शरणं॒ शर्म॑ यंस॒त्ति॒वर्तु॑ ज्योतिः॒ स्वमि॒ष्टय॑ स्मे ॥

VII-101-2

May that God who enables plants to grow, who rules over the waters—nay, over the whole universe—grant us that Haven of Refuge, which is all bliss, which quickens in us the gnad of Jnana (Knowledge), Bhakti (Devotion) and Vairagya (Detachment) May He bless us with the spiritual Vision that ever burns bright and brings us Final Beatitude

WILSON

May he who is the augments of plants, the increaser of the waters, who rules divine over the whole earth, bestow upon us a three-storied dwelling and felicity may he grant us the desired light (of the sun) at the three bright seasons

GRIFFITH

Giver of growth to plants, the God who ruleth over the waters and all moving creatures,

Vouchsafe us triple shelter for our refuge, and threefold light to succour and befriend us

THOMAS

May he who is the increaser of plants and waters, who as God rules over everything living, give threefold shelter and protection, and three-fold light for our assistance

स्त॒रीरु॑ त्व॒द्भव॑ति॒ स॒त् उ॑ त्व॒द्यया॑क्शं॒ तन्व॑ च॒क्र ए॒षः ।  
 पि॒तुः प॒यः प्र॒ति॑ गृ॒ह्णाति॒ मा॒ता तेन॑ पि॒ता वर्ध॑ते॒ तेन॑ पु॒त्रः ॥

VII-101-3

One cloud does not rain, another does, God forms the body of the cloud as He pleases The earth receives rain (water) from the sky, thereby the Father appears with all His glories unveiled, it is from such a One the offspring draws its sustenance

WILSON

One form of Parjanya is like a barren cow, the other produces offspring, he takes whichever form he pleases the mother receives the milk from the father, thence the father, thence the son is nourished

GRIFFITH

Now he is sterile, now begetteth offspring, even as he willeth doth he change his figure

The Father's genial flow bedews the Mother, therewith the Sire, therewith the son is nourished

THOMAS

Now he is a barren female, now he engenders, according to his will he forms his body The mother receives milk from the father, through him the father grows, through him the son

यस्मिन् विश्वानि भुवनानि तस्थुस्त्रिस्तो द्यौश्चेध सस्रुराणः  
 त्रयः कोशस उपसेचनासो मध्वः श्रोतन्त्यमितो<sup>1</sup> विरप्शम् ॥

VII-101-4

In Him abide all the worlds including the three heavens, about that Mighty Being the three Vedas, reservoirs of supreme Knowledge, rain-clouds of wisdom that they are, shower all sweet conceptions, to Him flow all the threefold *Larnas*

WILSON

In whom all beings exist, the three worlds abide from whom the waters flow in three directions (east, west, and south) the three water-shedding masses of clouds (east, west, and north) pour the waters round the mighty (*Parjanya*)

GRIFFITH

In him all the living creatures have their being, and the three heavens with triply flowing waters  
 Three reservoirs that sprinkle down their treasure shed their sweet streams around him with a murmur

THOMAS

In him all beings abide Through the three heavens the waters flow threefold The three reservoirs sprinkling down drip from all sides abundance of sweetness

इ॒दं वचः॑ प॒र्जन्या॑य स्व॒राजे॑ हृ॒दो अ॒स्त्वन्तरं॑ तज्जु॒जोषत् ।  
 म॒योमु॒वो वृ॒ष्टयः॑ सन्त्व॒स्मे सु॒षि॒प्ल्य ओष॑धीर्दे॒वगो॑पाः ॥

VII-101-5

May this, my paean to the All-showering, Sovereign God (Parjanya) reach His inmost heart and may He rejoice in it, may His felicitic blessings be ours (in full measure), may the panacean herbs closely guarded by God (in the *Sritis*), heal us of all life's ills (bear healing fruitage)

WILSON

This praise is addressed to the self-irradiating Parjanya<sup>1</sup> may it be placed in his heart, may he be gratified by it, may the joy-diffusing rains be ours, may the plants cherished by the deity be fruitful

GRIFFITH

May this my song to Sovran Lord Parjanya come near to his heart and give him pleasure

May we obtain the showers that bring enjoyment, and God-Protected plants with goodly fruitage

THOMAS

May this hymn be to the heart of the monarch Parjanya, may he accept it May the rains that give pleasure be ours, and fruitful plants protected by the God

स रे तो॒द्या वृ॒षभः॑ शु॒श्र्व॒र्त्त॒नां तस्मि॑न्नात्मा जग॒त॒म॒स्त॒स्युप॑श्च ।  
तन्म॑ ऋ॒त पा॑तु श्रु॒तश॑रदाय॒ य॒य पा॑त स्व॒स्तिमिः॑ म॒दा नः॑

VII-101-6

This Primal Being infuses vitality even into eternal souls the souls of all things moving and unmoving exist in Him and under His governance May this right knowledge protect me through all time (through a hundred years), may Thou save us for ever and ever with your benedictions

WILSON

May he, the bull, be the impregnator of the perpetual plants for in him is the vitality of both the fixed and moveable (world) may the rain sent by him preserve me for a hundred years and do you (gods) ever cherish us with blessings

GRIFFITH

He is the Bull of all and their impregner he holds the life of all things fixed and moving

May this rite save me till my hundredth autumn Preserve us evermore ye Gods with Blessings

सवत्सरं शंसयाना ब्राह्मणा व्रतचारिणः ।  
 वाचं पर्जन्याजिन्वितां प्र मण्डूकां अवादिषुः ॥

VII-103-3

The Brahmanas, i.e. sages, having practised austerities and observed silence for a whole year, have now broken forth into rapturous hymns inspired into them by God (Parjanya), the Fount of all things good and glorious

WILSON

The frogs, like Brahmanas, observant of their vows, practising penance throughout the year, utter aloud praises agreeable to  
 Parjanya

GRIFFITH

They, who lay quiet for a year, the Brahmanas who fulfil their vows,

The frogs have lifted up their voice, the voice Parjanya has inspired

GILDER KARCI ROTH

The frogs were silent all the year,  
 Like Brahmanas fettered by a vow  
 But now Parjanya calls them forth,  
 And loud their voices they uplift



MACDONELL

The frogs having lain for a year, like Brahmans practising a  
vow, have uttered forth their voice roused by Parjanya

MUIR

As Brahmans who a vow fulfil,  
The frogs had now a year been still

THOMAS

Having lain for a year, brahmuns keeping a vow, the frogs  
have uttered forth their voice that has been stirred by Parjanya

दि॒व्या आपो॑ अ॒भि यदे॑न॒माय॑न्दति॒ न शु॒ष्के॑ सर॒सी शय॑निम् ।  
 गवा॒मह॒ न मा॒युर्व॑त्सिनी॑नां म॒ण्डूक॑नां व॒ग्नु॒रवा॒ समे॑ति ॥

VII-103-2

When the waters of divine wisdom descend upon these (Brahman) frogs lying like empty waterskins in a dried-up lake, they in concert burst into lyrical ecstasies, even as a herd of cows joined by their calves, bellow in chorus

#### WILSON

When the waters of the sky fall upon (the troop of frogs) sleeping in the (exhausted) lake like a dry water-skin, then rises together the croaking of the frogs, like the bellowing of cows when joined by their calves

MACDONELL:

When the heavenly waters came upon him lying like a dry  
leather-bag in a lake, then the sound of the frogs unites like the  
lowing of cows accompanied by calves

MUTR.

Like dried and shrivelled skins they lay,  
Faint, parched with heat, for many a day,  
Expecting, long in vain, the showers  
Withheld by Air's malignant powers

THOMAS:

When the waters of heaven came upon them, as they lay like  
a dry water-skin in a lake, then like the lowing of cows with  
calves the voice of the frogs rises together

यदीमेनाँ उ॒द्यतो अ॒भ्यवर्षि॑त्तु॒ष्याव॑तः प्रा॒वृष्या॑गतायाम् ।  
 अ॒स्त्रली॑कृत्या॒ पित॑रं न पु॒त्रो अ॒न्यो अ॒न्यमु॑प॒ वद॑न्तमेति ॥

VII-103-3

When, in the proper season, wisdom begins to rain on the seekers of Truth, passionately longing and thirsting for it, one, namely, the pupil—all joy and reverence—approaches another, namely, the teacher, with jubilant greetings, as does a son on meeting his father

WILSON

When the rainy season has arrived, and (Parjanya) has sent the rain upon them, thirsty and longing (for its coming), then one frog meets another croaking (his congratulations) as a child (calls to) his father with inarticulate ejaculations

## MACDONELL

When he has rained upon them the eager, the thirsty, the rainy season having come, one with a croak of joy approaches the other while he speaks, as a son (approaches) his father

## MUTR

But autumn comes Parjanya rains  
In copious streams, and floods the plains  
Clouds veil the sun, the air is cool,  
The ponds, long empty, now are full  
There float the frogs, their bodies soak  
Afar is heard their merry croak

## THOMAS

When it has rained on them, the longing ones, the thirsty, uttering their croaking with the coming of the rains, one, like a son to his father, approaches another as he speaks

अन्यो अन्यमनु गृणात्येनोरपां प्रसर्गे यदमन्दिपताम् ।

मण्डूको यदभिवृष्टः कनिष्कन् पृथ्निः संशृङ्गे हरितेन वार्यम् ॥

VII-103-4

While both rejoice at the dawning of wisdom, one (the teacher) blesses the other (the disciple), and the experienced frog (the teacher), steeped as he is in wisdom, imparts it, with uncontaminable joy, to his earnest, nevertheless green (i.e. raw), disciple

WILSON

One of these two congratulates the other as they are both delighting in the forthcoming of rain, the speckled frog, leaping up repeatedly when moistened (by the shower), joins greetings with the green one

GRIFFITH

Each of these twain receives the other kindly, while they are reveling in the flow of waters,

When the frog moistened by the rain springs forward, and Green and Spotty both combine their voices

GELDNER, KAEGI, ROTH

One seizes and congratulates the other,

Delighted at the falling of the water

In glee each wet and dripping frog jumps upward,

The green one and the speckled join their voices

MACDONELL:

One of the two greets the other when they have revelled  
in the discharge of the waters When the frog, rained upon,  
leaps about, the speckled one mingles his voice with (that of)  
the yellow one.

MUR:

Well drenched, they jump aloft in glee,  
And join in noisy colloquy  
They leap upon each other's backs,  
And each to t'other cries co-ax.

THOMAS:

One of the two greets another, when they have exulted in  
the pouring forth of the waters; when the frog being rained  
upon leaps about, the speckled one mingles his voice with the  
yellow one.

यदे'पामन्यो अन्यस्य वाचं' शाक्तस्ये'व वदति शिक्षमाणः ।  
 सर्वं तदे'षां समृधे'व पर्व यत्सुवाचो वदयनाध्यप्सु ॥

VII-103-5

When one of these (the disciple) repeats verbatim the words of the competent teacher—that indeed is considered as a high festival for both, for then you both (teacher and pupil) are entitled to give noble exhortation in the sphere of wisdom or apropos life's duties

WILSON

When one of you imitates the croaking of another as a learner (imitates) his teacher, when, loud crying, you converse (leaping) upon the waters, then the entire body is as it were developed

GRIFITH

When one of these repeats the other's language, as he who learns the lesson of the teacher,

Your every limb seems to be growing larger as ye converse with eloquence on the waters,

GILDER, KAIGI, ROTH

What one calls out, another quickly answers,  
 Like boys at school their teacher's words repeating  
 Ye seem but many members of one body,  
 When in the pool ye lift your varied voices



MACDONELL:

When one of them repeats the speech of the other, as the learner that of his teacher, all that of them ■ in unison like a lesson that eloquent ye repeat upon the waters

MUR:

As teachers first call out a word,  
Then boys repeat what they have heard,  
Just so the frogs croak out once more  
What other frogs had croaked before.

THOMAS:

When one repeats the voice of another, as a pupil that of his teacher, then all their (croaking) is like a lesson well repeated, which ye eloquent ones recite in the waters

•

गोमायुरेको' अजमायुरेकः पृश्निरेको हरित एक एषाम् ।  
 समान नाम विभ्रतो विरूपाः पुरुषा वाचं पिपिशुर्वदन्तः ॥

VII-103-6

Among the students one is like unto a cow, another like unto a goat, one shows a remarkable curiosity, while another is still a novice, though all of them go by the common appellation of "pupil", they are of graded capacities. All of them, however, draw upon the Vedas to elucidate by generous citations every possible subject—each doing so in his own way.

WILSON

One frog has the bellowing of a cow, another the bleating of a goat, one of them is speckled, one is green—designated by a common appellation, they are of various colours, and croaking, shew themselves in numerous places.

GRITTIH

One is Cow-bellow and Goat-bleat the other, one Frog is Green and one of them is Spotty.

They bear one common name, and yet they vary, and talking, modulate the voice diversely.

GEIDNER, KARL ROTH

Some low like cattle, some like goats are bleating,  
 And one is yellow, and another speckled  
 Alike in name, but various in appearance,  
 In many tones they modulate their voices.

MACDONELL:

One lows like a cow, one bleats like a goat; one is speckled,  
one of them is yellow. Bearing a common name, they have  
different colours. In many ways they adorn their voice in speak-  
ing.

MUIR:

Sounds diverse issue from their throats,  
Some low like cows, some bleat like goats,  
Though one in name, of various sheen,  
For one is brown, another green

THOMAS:

Lowing like a cow is one, bleating like a goat is another,  
speckled is one, another of them is yellow. Bearing a common  
name, different in colour, they vary their voices in many ways as  
they speak.

MACDONELL:

He that lows like a cow has given us riches, he that bleats like a goat has given them, the speckled one has given them, and the yellow one The frogs giving us hundreds of cows prolong our life in a thousandfold Soma pressing

Muir:

The frogs that bleat and those that low,  
Brown, green, on men all wealth bestow  
The kine that on our pastures graze  
We owe to them, with length of days

THOMAS:

He that lows like a cow, he that bleats like a goat, the speckled one, the yellow one, they have given us riches The frogs giving us hundreds of cows in a thousandfold soma-pressing extend our life

गोमा॑युरदा॒जमा॑युरदा॒त्पृश्नि॑रदा॒द्धरि॑तो नो व॒र्ष॒नि ।

गवां॑ म॒ण्डूका॒ दद॑तः श॒तानि॑ स॒हस्र॑सा॒वे प्र ति॑र॒न्त आ॒युः ॥

VII-103-10

While the students of Vedas—(whatever their type), meditative, versatile, curious or immature—have (in their own way) benefited us with the wealth (of wisdom), the inspired seers—the Frogs proper—by leaving us the legacy of unnumbered hymns on the Creator of infinite things, have shown us the way to Immortality

WILSON

May the cow-toned, the goat-toned, the speckled, the green (frog severally) grant us riches! May the frogs in the fertilizing (season of the ram), bestowing upon us hundreds of cows, prolong our lives!

GRIFFITH

Cow-bellow and Goat-bleat have granted riches, and Green and Spotty have vouchsafed us treasure

The Frogs who give us cows in hundreds lengthen our lives in this most fertilizing season

GELDNER, KAEGI, ROTH

The frogs that bleat like goats, and low like cattle,  
The green one and the speckled, give us riches  
Whole herds of cows may they bestow upon us,  
And grant us length of days through sacrificing

MACDONELL:

He that lows like a cow has given us riches, he that bleats like a goat has given them, the speckled one has given them, and the yellow one. The frogs giving us hundreds of cows prolong our life in a thousandfold Soma pressing

MUIR:

The frogs that bleat and those that low,  
Brown, green, on men all wealth bestow  
The kine that on our pastures graze  
We owe to them, with length of days.

THOMAS:

He that lows like a cow, he that bleats like a goat, the speckled one, the yellow one, they have given us riches. The frogs giving us hundreds of cows in a thousandfold soma-pressing extend our life.

सुविज्ञानं चिकितुषे जनाय सचासंच वचसी पस्पृधाते ।  
 तयोर्यत्सत्यं यतरद्वजीयस्तदित्सोमोऽवति हन्यासत् ॥

VII-104-12

A wise man knows without a shadow of doubt that the True and the False are poles apart, that God (Soma) protects only what is true and honest, and that He destroys whatever is false (and dishonest)

WILSON

To the understanding man there is perfect discrimination, the words of truth and falsehood are mutually at variance, of these two, Soma verily cherishes that which is true and right he destroys the false

GRIFFITH\*

The prudent finds it easy to distinguish the true and false, their words oppose each other

Of these two that which is the true and honest, Soma protects and brings the false to nothing

उलूकयातुं शुश्रूलूकयातुं जहि श्वयातुमुत वोकयातुम् ।  
 सुपर्णयातुमुत गृध्रयातुं द्यपदेव प्र सृण रक्ष इन्द्र ॥

VII-104-22

God Almighty (O Indra), strike dead, as with Thy thunderbolt, all these *Rakshasas*,—the *Rakshasas* that behave (torment us) like owls, like scorpions, like hounds, like wolves, like birds (of prey), like vultures

WILSON

Destroy the evil spirit, whether in the form of an owl, or of an owlet, of a dog, or of a duck, of a hawk, or of a vulture, slay the *Rakshasas*, Indra, (with the thunderbolt) as with a stone

GRIFFITH

Destroy the fiend shaped like an owl or owlet, destroy him in the form of dog or cuckoo  
 Destroy him shaped as eagle or as vulture as with a stone, O Indra, crush the demon



*Selections from  
Mandala VIII*

मा चि॑दन्यद्वि शंस॑त॒ सखा॑यो मा रि॑पण्यत् ।  
 इन्द्र॑मि॒त्स्तो॑ता वृष॑णं स॒र्चा सु॒ते मुहु॑रु॒क्थ्या च॑ शंसत् ॥

VIII-1-1

Laud none but the Almighty; friends, do not prostitute your gift of words. Praise God Almighty (Indra)—none but Him, the showerer of blessings: chant His praise again and again, with minds disciplined and focused in Him.

WILSON:

Repeat, friends, no other praise, be not hurtful (to yourselves), praise together Indra, the showerer (of benefits) when the Soma is effused; repeatedly utter praise (to him).

GRIFFITH:

Glorify naught besides, O friends; so shall no sorrow trouble you.

Praise only mighty Indra when the juice is shed, and say your lauds repeatedly.

अवकक्षिणं' वृषमं ययाजुरं गां न चर्षणीसहम्  
विद्वेषणं संवननोमयङ्करं मंहिष्ठमुभयाविनम् ॥

VIII-1-2

(Let us glorify) Even Him, who severely chastises sinners, who showers bounties on devotees, who is unchanging and unageing, who is as forbearant as the Earth herself of the evil ways of men, who is stern as well as benign, who can do and undo things, make and unmake people, who is Supreme, who gives both material and spiritual happiness

WILSON

A bull rushing (upon his foes), undecaying, like an ox, the overcomer of (hostile) men, the hater (of adversaries), the venerable, the displayer of both (enmity and favour), the munificent, the distributor of both (celestial and terrestrial riches)

GRIFITH:

Even him, eternal, like a bull who rushes down, men's conqueror, bounteous like a cow,

Him who is cause of both, of enmity and peace, to both sides most munificent

म॒हे च॒न त्वाम॑द्रि॒वः परा॑ शु॒ल्काय॑ दे॒याम् ।  
न स॒हस्रा॑य॒ नायु॑ताय॒ वज्रि॑वो॒ न श॒ताय॑ श॒ताम॑य ॥

VIII-1-5

O Lord of infinite riches, Maker of Indras, O Mover of mountains! Never, never would I part with Thee, be the price ever so fabulous; no, not for a thousand, nor tens of thousands, nor even for wealth unlimited

WILSON:

Wielder of the thunderbolt, I would not sell thee for a large price, not for a thousand, not for ten thousand, nor, opulent bearer of the thunderbolt, for a hundred.

GRIFITH:

O Caster of the Stone, I would not sell thee for a mighty price.

Not for a thousand, Thunderer! nor ten thousand, nor a hundred, Lord of countless wealth.

वस्यो' इन्द्रसि मे पितुस्त आतुरभुञ्जतः ।

माता च मे छदययः समा वसो वसुत्वनाय राधसे ।

VIII-1-6

O Indra, dearer to me art Thou than my father, or brother not overfond of me My mother, and equally with her, Thou, lavish measureless love on me, O Omnipresent Lord—both ministering to my happiness, vast and varied

WILSON

Thou art more precious, Indra, than my father, or than my brother, who is not affectionate, thou, giver of dwellings, art equal to my mother, for you both render me distinguished on account of celebrity and riches

GRIFFITH

O Indra, thou art more to me than sire or niggard brother is, Thou and my mother,

O Good Lord, appear alike, to give me wealth abundantly

मम त्वा सूर उदि॑ते मम म॒ध्यन्दि॑ने दि॒वः ।

मम प्र॒पित्वे अ॑पि॒श्वरे व॑स॒वा स्तोमा॑सो अवृ॒त्सत ॥

VIII-1-29

O Vasu, God All-pervading, may my prayers to Thee grow more and more fervent; may I hymn Thee at sunrise, at noon, at eventide and at nightfall.

WILSON:

May my prayers when the sun has risen, those also at noon, those also when evening arrives, bring thee back, giver of riches (to my sacrifice).

GRIFFITH:

My praises when the Sun hath risen, my praises at the time of noon,

My praises at the coming of the gloom of night, O Vasu, have gone forth = thee.

अस्मे आ वंहतं रयिं शतवन्तं सहस्रिणम् ।  
 पुस्तु विश्वधायसम् ॥

VIII-5-15

Bring us, O Aswins, wealth, a hundredfold, (nay) a thousandfold, and food in endless abundance, enough to sustain all living beings

*Note* The sage Brahmatuṣi, significantly so called, because of his intense longing to feed the whole universe—which to him is the living sanctuary of *Brahman* the Supreme God—prays to the Aswins for an inexhaustible supply of food wherewith he could provide sustenance for all living beings

WILSON

Bring unto us riches by hundreds and by thousands, desired by many, sustaining all

GRIFITHS

Bring riches hither unto us in hundreds and thousands source of plenteous food, sustaining all

त्वं नो' अस्या अमर्तेरुत क्षुधो' मिशस्तेरव स्पृधि ।

त्वं न उती तव चित्रया धिया शिक्षा अचिष्ठ गतुवित् ॥

VIII-66-14

Lord, Most Mighty! Free us from crass folly, from lust for base gains, from slandorous leanings O Knower of the right Path, with Thy Grace Abounding and wondrous art, school our minds and hearts

WILSON

Deliver us from this poverty, hunger, and calumny, give us (our desire) by thy protection and wondrous working, O mightiest, thou knowest the right way

GRIFFITH

From this our misery and famine set us free, from this dire curse deliver us

Succour us with thine help and with thy wondrous thought, Most Mighty, finder of the way



जीवा॒न्नो॑ अ॒भि धे॑ त॒नादि॑त्यासः पु॒रा ह॑यात् । क॒र्द्ध स॑ ह॒वनश्चु॑तः ॥

VIII-67-5

O Aditya, self-effulgent and all-illuminating God, hasten to the succour of us, *jeevas*, before we are utterly lost, where, indeed, couldst Thou be, even after our cry of anguish has fallen on Thy ears?

WILSON

*Adityas*, hasten to us ere our death, while we are yet alive, where are ye, hearers of prayer?

GRIFFITH

Guard us, *Adityas*, still alive, before the deadly weapon strike

Are ye not they who hear our call?

अस्ति देवा अंहोर्ध्वस्ति रत्नमनांगसः । आदित्या अर्दुतेनसः ॥

VIII-67-7

O Aditya, Self-shining God, untouched by stain or blemish,  
Dire distress surely awaits a sinner, as surely as Bliss Absolute  
awaits the sinless

WILSON

Great, O deities, is (the guilt) of the sinner, but so the sinless  
is happiness, *Adityas*, ye are void of sin

GRIFFITH

Adityas, Gods, from sorrow there is freedom, for the sinless,  
wealth,  
O ye in whom no fault is seen

ये मूर्धनिः क्षितीनामद्व्यासः स्वयंशसः । व्रता रक्षन्ते अद्रुहः ॥

VIII-67-13

(Spiritually) Supreme leaders of the race ever maintain their vows (of piety and purity), unseduced (by love of lucre), ever unarmful to others, indefeasible is their fair renown

WILSON

Ye who are the heads of men, unarming, and of self-sustained glory, who, benevolent ones, protect our rites

GRIFFITH

Those who, the Princes of the folk, in native glory, never deceived,

Maintain their statutes, void of guile

वि पु द्वेपो व्यंहतिमादित्यासो वि संहितम् । विष्वग्वि बृहता रपः ॥

VIII-67-21

O Aditya, God Self-effulgent, put an end to our aversion  
(for things great and noble), dispel all our sins, strip away cant  
and fraud (from our hearts), blast off from us all baneful leanings

WILSON

Adityas, utterly destroy our enemies, destroy wickedness,  
destroy the closely drawn net, destroy evil everywhere

GRIFFITH

On every side dispel all sin,  
Adityas, all hostility,  
Indigence and combined attack

परा॒क॒र्ता॒चिद॒द्रि॒व॒स्त्वां न॒क्ष॒न्त नो॒ मि॒रः । अ॒रं॑ ग॒माम॒ ते व॒यम् ॥

VIII-92-27

Almighty, Mover of mountains, our prayers surely reach Thee  
even from afar, may we surrender ourselves to Thee heart and  
soul

WILSON

May our praises reach Thee, Thunderer, even from afar,  
may we obtain thy (wealth) abundantly

GRIFFITH

Even from far away our songs reach thee, O Caster of the  
Stone

May we come very close to thee

ए॒वा ह्य॒सि' वी॒र्यु॒रे॒वा श॑रं उ॒त स्वि॒रः । ए॒वा ते रा॒ध्यं म॑नः ॥

VIII-92-28

Invincibly valiant and unshakably firm that Thou art, at all times Thou lovest only the brave, it is only by being brave and firm can we win Thy heart

WILSON:

Thou verily lovest to smite the mighty, thou art a hero and firm (in battle), thy mind is to be propitiated by praise.

GRIFFITH:

For so thou art the hero's friend, a hero, too, art thou, and strong:

So may thine heart be won to us

त्वयेदिन्द्र युजा वयं प्रति ब्रुवीमहि स्पृधः ।  
 त्वमस्माकं त्वं स्मसि ॥

VIII-92-32

Almighty (Indra), only with Thee as our Helper may we triumph over envy and jealousy, then alone wilt Thou be ours and we shall be Thine

WILSON

With thee, Indra, as our helper, let us answer our enemies,  
 thou art ours, we are thine

GRIFFITH

With thee to help us, Indra, let us answer all our enemies  
 For thou art ours and we are thine.

अयमस्मि जरितः पश्य मेह विश्वा ज्ञातान्यम्यस्मि महा ।  
 ऋतस्य मा प्रदिशो वर्धयन्त्याददिरो मुर्वना दर्दरीमि ॥

VIII-100-4

(Appearing before the devotee who has dedicated all his life  
 lauding His supernal excellences and is absorbed now in  
 madhā, God Almighty, addressing him says): "Singer enrapt'  
 on your eyes and behold, here I am before you. all things I  
 transcend in greatness and majesty—every thing that exists  
 in Me that teachers of Truth illuminate, spreading know-  
 ledge of Me far and wide. adored by all the worlds, I cherish  
 them with tender care"

ELSON:

(Indra speaks) "Here I am, worshipper, behold me here;  
 overpower all things by my might; the offerers of sacrifice  
 glorify me by their praises; I the shatterer, shatter the worlds"

FIFTH:

Here I am, look upon me here, O singer. All that existeth  
 surpass in greatness  
 The Holy Law's commandments make me mighty. Rending  
 with strength I rend the worlds asunder.



समुद्रे अन्तः शयत उद्ना वज्रो' अमीवृतः ।  
 भरन्त्यस्मै संयतः पुरः प्रस्रवणा बलिम् ॥

VIII-100-9

Vajra, the Thunderbolt, the Invincible Lord, reclines in the ocean, surrounded by water on all sides, (even) the greatest of the great worship Him,—their bodies, minds and hearts all controlled

WILSON

The thunderbolt lies in the midst of the sea, covered with the waters, (the foes) flying in front of the battle bring offerings of submission to it

GRIFFITH

Deep in the ocean lies, the bolt with waters compassed round about,  
 And in continuous onward flow the floods their tribute bring to it

देवीं वाचमजनयन्त देवास्तां विश्वरूपाः पशवो वदन्ति ॥  
 सा नो मन्द्रेषमूर्जं दुर्हना धेनुर्वागस्मानुष सुष्टुतैर्तु ॥

VIII-100-11

God created Speech Divine, even beasts, of all species, utter it.  
 May this Speech, our wish-yielding cow, universally extolled and  
 rightly, who gladdens us all with her gift of food, strength and  
 fame, ever come to us

WILSON:

The gods produced the goddess Vach; her do animals of every  
 kind utter; may she, Vach, the all-gladdening cow, yielding meat  
 and drink, come to us, worthily praised.

GRIFFITH:

The deities generated Vak the Goddess, and animals of every  
 figure speak her.

May she, the Gladdener, yielding food and vigour, the Milch-  
 cow Vak, approach us meedily lauded.

सखे॑ विष्णो॒ वित॑रं वि॒ क्रम॑स्व॒ द्यौर्दे॒हि लो॒कं वज्रा॑य वि॒ष्कभे॑ ।  
 ह॒नो॒व वृ॒त्रं रि॒णचा॑व॒ सिन्धू॒नि-द्र॑स्य यन्तु॒ प्रस॑वे वि॒सृष्टाः ॥

VIII-100-12

Friend of friends, Vishnu, Victory ever to Thy supreme valour!  
 O ye Heavens, surrender all your space, (your world of luminan-  
 es) to Vajra (Vishnu) who upholds it all. May I, with Thy help,  
 dispel ignorance (which has enshrouded the worlds), making  
 the streams of Knowledge (the Vedas) flow unimpeded, may  
 they (the streams) so freed from ignorance (misinterpretation),  
 speed on for the birth of Indra (i.e. for the dawning of God-  
 consciousness in men)

WILSON

O Vishnu my friend, stride forth lustily, O heaven, give room  
 to contain the thunderbolt, let us smite Vritra, let us open the  
 rivers, let them flow, set free, at the command of Indra

GRITTIH:

Step forth with wider stride, my comrade Vishnu; make room,  
 Dyaus, for the leap of the lightning.

Let us slay Vritra, let us free the rivers: let them flow loosed  
 at the command of Indra.

न यः संपृच्छे न पुनर्हवी<sup>१</sup>तवे न संवादाय रमते ।

तस्माच्चो अद्य समेतैरुह्यतं द्वाहुभ्यां<sup>१</sup> न उह्यतम् ॥

VIII-101-4

God (Mitra-Varuna), keep us now away from the company of one who is not serious and earnest in inquiry, who does not call us again (to teach), who finds no delight in spiritual colloquy with us; oh, save us from his arms (i e may we give him a wide berth)

WILSON

He who has no pleasure in questioning, nor in repeated calling nor in dialogue,—defend us today from him and from his encounter, defend us from his arms

GRIFITH.

He whom no man may question, none may summon back, who stands not still for colloquy,—

From hostile clash with him keep ye us safe this day; keep us in safety with your arms

व॒चो॒वि॒दं वा॒चमु॒दीर॑य॒न्तीं॒ विश्वा॑भि॒र्धोभि॑रु॒पति॑ष्ठ॒माना ।  
 दे॒वीं दे॒वेभ्यः॒ पर्ये॑यु॒षीं गा॒मा मा॑वृ॒क्त म॒र्त्यो द॒म्रचे॑ताः ॥

VIII-101-

Only a man of little understanding would venture to discard the Divine Veda, which shows full mastery of the nuances of words, which speaks with a ringing clearness and eloquence which comes to us pregnant with sublime ideas in their vast amplitude and escorts us (in our spiritual pilgrimage) to the threshold of God Himself

#### WILSON

The divine cow, who herself utters speech and gives speech to others, who comes attended by every kind of utterance, who helps me for my worship of the gods,—it is only the fool who abandons her

#### GRIFITH

Weak-minded men have as a cow adopted me who can  
 Luther from the Gods, a Goddess,

Who, skilled in eloquence, her voice uplifteth who stand  
 near at hand with all devotions

यस्माद्दे॒जन्त॑ कृ॒ण्वन्त॑श्च॒कृत्या॑नि कृ॒ण्वतः॑ ।

सह॒स्र॒सां मे॒धसा॑ता॒विव॒ त्मना॑ग्निं॒ धीभिः॑ संप॒र्यत॑ ॥

VIII-103

In order that you may acquire Knowledge, serve, by performing acts holy and devout, the God of gods (Agni), the bestower of countless bounties; verily, men hold in adoring veneration Him who does glorious deeds

WILSON:

Since men tremble before those who perform the sacred sacrifices, therefore do ye devoutly worship in the solemn rite Agni the bestower of thousands of kine

GRIFFITH:

Him before whom the people shrink when he performs his glorious deeds,

Him who wins thousands at the worship of the Gods himself that Agni, serve with songs.

स दृढहे चिदभि तृणति वाजमर्वता स धत्ते अक्षिति श्रवः ।  
 त्वे देवत्रा सदा पुरुवसो विश्वा वामानि धीमहि ॥

VIII-103-5

Through the Grace of the Horse God a devotee sets at naught  
 the might of the most formidable foe and earns immortal fame  
 O Supreme God, Lord of all wealth, ever and always fixing  
 our mind on Thee, may we hold all prized things in trust for  
 Thee

WILSON

Lord of vast wealth, he (thy worshipper) spoils with his steed  
 food laid up even in strongholds, he possesses imperishable  
 wealth, in thee divine we ever possess all desirable treasures

GRIFFITH

He with the steed wins spoil even in the fenced fort and gains  
 imperishable fame

In thee, O Lord of Wealth continually we lay all precious  
 offerings to the Gods

*Selections from  
Mandala IX*



त्वामच्छा चरामसि तदिदं दिवेदि॑वे । इ॒न्दो त्वे न॑ आ॒शंसः ॥

IX-1-5

May we ever and always serve Thee heart and soul, with the one and only purpose of serving Thee, O Indu, all our aspirations are set on Thee

WILSON

To thee we come, O dropping (Soma,) for thee only is this our worship day by day, our prayers are to thee, none other

GRIFFITH

O Indu, we draw nigh to thee, with this one object day by day  
To thee alone our prayers are said

THOMAS

To thee we come day by day for this one purpose To thee  
are our prayers, O Indu

प्र सोमासः स्वाध्यः पर्वमानासो अक्रमुः । रयिं कृण्वन्ति चेतनम् ॥

IX-31-1

God, benevolent, pure and delightful as the moon, gives us the wealth of wisdom.

WILSON:

The benevolent juices being purified flow forth, they confer intellectual wealth

GRIFFITH:

The Soma-drops, benevolent, come forth as they are purified,

Bestowing wealth which all may see.

ए॒प सूर्य॑भरोच॒यत् प॒व॑मानो॒ वि॒च॑र्ष॒णिः । वि॒श्व॒ा धा॒मा॒नि वि॒श्व॒वित् ॥

IX-28-5

This All-Pure, All-knowing God, Lord of the entire cosmos (Soma), He it is who has lent effulgence to the sun and all luminaries

WILSON

This purified, all-contemplating all-knowing (Soma) gives radiance to the sun and all the spheres (of light)

GRIFFITH

This Pavamana, swift and strong, Omniscient, gave splendour to

The Sun and all his forms of light

ग्र सोमासः स्वाध्यः१ः पर्वमानासो बक्रमुः । रयिं कृण्वन्ति चेतनम् ॥

IX-31-1

God, benevolent, pure and delightful as the moon, gives us the  
wealth of wisdom

WILSON

The benevolent juices being purified flow forth, they confer  
intellectual wealth

GRIFFITH

The Soma-drops, benevolent, come forth as they are purified,

Bestowing wealth which all may see

ति॒स्रो वा॒च उदी॑रते॒ गावो॑ मिमन्ति॒ धेन॑वः । हरि॑रेति॒ कनि॑कदत् ॥

IX-33-4

The Cows, namely, the Vedas, utter—i e use—words having threefold meanings, kindling (in us) Knowledge whereby Hari comes to us with a shout of joy (as it were)

WILSON

The priests utter the three sacred texts, the milch kine low (on being milked), the green-tinted Soma goes sounding (to the vessels)

GRIFFITH

Three several words are uttered kine are lowing, cows who give their milk

The tawny-hued goes bellowing on

तुभ्ये॒मा भुव॑ना क॒वे म॒हि॒म्ने सो॑म तस्यिरे । तुभ्य॑मर्षन्ति सिन्ध॑वः ॥

IX-62-27

God, omniscient and benign (Soma), these spheres (terrestrial and celestial) are held firm by Thy might, for Thee (i.e. at Thy behest) the rivers flow

WILSON

O sage (Soma) in thy might do these worlds stand, to thee the rivers hasten

GRIFFITH

O Soma, O thou Sage, these worlds stand ready to attest thy might

For thy behoof the rivers flow

पवमानं नृतं बृहच्छुक् ज्योतिरजीजनत् । कृष्णा तमांसि जद्धनत् ॥

IX-66-24

God, All-purifying, has revealed to us the Light of supreme Knowledge, —Knowledge, eternal, effulgent and all-embracing, He has destroyed the cimmerian darkness (of the world)

WILSON

The purified (*Soma*) generated the veracious, all-pervading, bright-shining light, destroying the black darkness

GRIFFITH

He, Pavamana, hath produced the lofty Law, the brilliant light,

Destroying darkness black of hue

पवमानस्य जङ्घन्तो हरे'श्चन्द्रा असृक्षत । जीरा अजिरशो'चिपः ॥

IX-66-25

From Hari (i.e. from God who annuls all our sorrows), the Purest of the pure, who dispels all nescience, have issued forth Vedic Scriptures (which, like the moon, gladden and subdue our hearts), whose immortal serenity and radiance quell (all our miseries)

WILSON

The gladsome swift-moving streams of the purified, green-tinted, unfadingly radiant (*Soma*), the destroyer (of darkness), have been let forth

GRIFFITH

From tawny-Pavamana, the Destroyer, radiant streams have sprung,

Quick streams from him whose gleams are swift



यदन्ति यच्च दू॒रके म॒यं वि॒न्दति मा॒मिह । प॒र्वमा॒न॒ रि तर्ज॑हि ॥

IX-67-21

God, All-Pure and All-Purifying, whatever danger, imminent or remote, might impend or overawe me, ward off and chase away

WILSON

Whatever fear seizes me, near, afar off, or here, purified (Soma) dispel that fear

GRIFFITH

O Pavamana, drive away the danger, whether near at hand  
Or far remote, that finds me here

ऋतस्य गोपा न दमाय सुऋतुक्षी प परित्रा हृद्य रन्तरा दधे ।  
विद्वान्त्स विश्वा सुवनामि पश्यत्यवाहुग्रन्विध्यति कर्ते अद्रतान् ॥

IX-73-8

God (Soma), the Preserver and Guardian of eternal values, good and great in all His works, whom none can hoodwink, places in the inmost sanctum of His heart the threefold holy deeds of men. The Omniscient One, with all-seeing eye scans all the worlds, He hurls into the awful gulf (of calamity) the unrighteous that do not win His Grace (by a life of purity)

WILSON

(Soma) the protector of the sacrifice, the doer of good deeds cannot be resisted, he places in his heart the three purifiers, he, the all-wise looks over all worlds, he censures those who are hostile in action, who sacrifice not

GRIFFITH

Guardian of Law, most wise, he may not be deceived three purifiers hath he set within his heart

With wisdom he beholds all creatures that exist he drives into the pit the hated ritless ones

दिवो यः स्कम्भो धरुणः स्वातत आपूर्णो अंशुः पर्येति<sup>1</sup> विश्वतः ।  
 सेमे मही रोदसी यक्षदावृता समीचीने दाधार समिपः कविः ॥

IX-74-2

God (*Soma*), the Supporter of Heaven, Sustainer of the Earth, with His supernal qualities overbrimming, All-Perfect and most resplendent, pervades all space may He bless Earth and Heaven, infinitely vast both, with spiritual Light God Omniscient confers all desirable things on the good, world without end

WILSON

The supporter of heaven, the prop (of the earth), the *Soma*-juice who, widely spreading, filling (the vessels), flows in all directions—may he unite the two great worlds by his own strength, he has upheld them combined. (may he) the sage (bestow) food upon (his worshippers)

आत्मन्वन्नमो' दुह्यते घृतं पयं ऋतस्य नाभि'रमृतं वि जायते ।  
 समीचीनाः सुदानवः प्रीणन्ति तं नरो' हितमव मेहन्ति परवः ॥

IX-74-4

Akasha is made to yield Knowledge, effulgent and quintessential, (through the words of Sruti it contains), this Knowledge turns out to be the true nectar—for it leads us to God Himself. Great saints, beacon lights of the race, who are righteous and bountiful, and who constantly strive to win His love, always shower the words of profound exhortation (from the Sruti texts).

WILSON:

Full of sap the butter and milk is milked from heaven, the bond of the sacrifice, the water is generated. the assembled liberal givers delight him; (the *Soma*-juices) the leaders, the protectors shower down the accumulated (water).

GRIFFITH:

Butter and milk are drawn from animated cloud: thence Amrit is produced, centre of sacrifice.

Him the Most Bounteous Ones, ever united, love: him as our Friend the Men who make all swell rain down.

ऋतस्य॑ जि॒ह्वा प॑वते मधु॒ प्रियं॑ व॒क्ता पति॑र्धियो अ॒स्या अदा॑ग्यः ।  
 दधा॑ति पु॒त्रः पि॒त्रोर्पी॒च्यं १॑ नाम॑ तृतीयमधि॑ रोच॒ने दि॒वः ॥

IX-75-2

The tongue of Truth (*Ṛiti*) voices forth in accents most sweet and ravishing (for) the Lord of Intelligence Himself has breathed it out (this *Ṛiti*) Just as the son calls his parents by a secret, a third, name, so, too, there is a mystic, a third, name for God who makes all luminaries in the firmament shine

WILSON

The tongue of Sacrifice (*Soma*) distils the delightful exhilarating (juice), speaking, lord of this rite, unassailable, the son (the sacrificer) assumes a third name unknown to his parents in the brilliance

GRIFFITH

The Speaker, unassailable Master of the hymn, the Tongue of Sacrifice pours forth the pleasant meath

Within the lustrous region of the heavens the Son makes the third secret name of Mother and of Sire

आ नः पूषा पवमानः सुरातयो' मित्रो गच्छन्तु वरुणः सजोषसः ।  
 बृहस्पति'र्मरुतो' वायुरश्विना त्वष्टा सविता सुयमा सरस्वती ॥

IX-81-4

May Pushan, Pavamana, Mitra, Varuna, Brihaspati, Maruts, Vayu, Aswins, Twashtri, Savitri and Saraswati come to us, glad and joyous, (not singly, but) in a body,—all of them, bounteous, with ascesis and deep piety (to God)

WILSON

May the generous (gods) met together come to us—Pushan, Pavamana, Mitra, Varuna, Brihaspati, the Maruts, Vayu, the Ashwins, Twashtri, Savitri, and beautiful Saraswati

GRIFFITH

Hither let Pushan Pavamana come to us, Varuna, Mitra, bountiful, of one accord,

The Maruts, Asvins, Vayu, and Brihaspati, Savitar, Twashitar, tractable Saraswati

उ॒भे चावा॑पृथि॒वी वि॑श्वमि॒न्वे अ॒र्य॒मा दे॒वो अदि॑तिर्वि॒धाता ।

म॒गो नृ॒शंस॑ उर्व॑न्तरि॒क्षं वि॑श्वे दे॒वाः प॒र्व॒मानं॑ लुप॒न्त ॥

IX-81-5

May all the gods adored by men—Heaven and Earth which (twain) pervade all space, Aryama, Aditi, Vidhatri, Bhaga, and the vast Firmament—worship Pavamana, God All-Purifying

WILSON

The all-pervading couple heaven and earth, the divine Aryaman, Aditi, Vidhatri, Bhaga deserving the praises of men, the spacious firmament, all the gods honour the purified Soma

GRIFFITH

Both Heaven and Earth, the all-invigorating Pair, Vidhatar, Aditi, and Aryaman the God,

Bhaga who blesses man, the spacious Firmament,—let all the Gods in Pavamana take delight

आ यस्तस्यौ भुवनान्यमर्त्यो विश्वानि सोमः परि तान्यर्पति ।  
 कृण्वन्त्सञ्चृतं विचृतममिष्टेय इन्दुः सिपक्त्युपसं न सूर्यः ॥

IX-84-2

God Immortal, known as *Soma*, as *Indu*, pervades all the worlds and protects them in all ways. He keeps them (men) in mundane bonds and releases them for their Eternal Good, even as the sun first joins the dawn with darkness and then releases it (only to heighten the dawn's beauty all the more)

WILSON:

The immortal *Soma* who is stationed upon the worlds, goes round about them all; *Indu*, binding and unloosing accompanies (the sacrifice) for its protection, as the sun the dawn

GRIFFITH:

He who hath come near to creatures that have life, Immortal *Soma* flows onward to all of them.

Effecting, for our aid, both union and release, *Indu*, like *Surya*, follows closely after Dawn



तवे॒माः प्र॒जा दि॒व्यस्य॑ रे॒तस॒स्त्वं वि॒श्वस्य॑ सु॒व॒नस्य॑ राज॒सि ।  
 अये॒दं वि॒श्वं प॒वमान॑ ते व॒शे त्वमि॑न्द्रो ग्र॒यमो॑ धा॒मघा॑ अ॒मि ॥

IX-86-28

All these beings are born of Thy supernal Creative Germ, Thou art the Sovereign of the Cosmos; no wonder, O Thou All-Pure, it is under Thy absolute sway; Thou, O Indu, art the first and foremost architect of our habitation (the earth and our corporeal frame)

WILSON:

All these are the offspring of thy celestial effluence, thou art the ruler of the whole world, so, purified (*Soma*), this universe is in subjection to thee, thou, Indu, art the foremost, the supporter of the house.

GRIMM:

These are thy generations of celestial seed: thou art the Sovran Lord of all world of life.

This universe, O Pavamara, owns thy sway; thou, Indu, art the first establisher of Law

ज्योतिर्यज्ञस्य॑ प॒त॒ते मधु॑ प्रि॒यं पि॒ता दे॒वानां॑ जनि॒ता वि॒भूव॑सुः ।  
 दधा॑ति रत्नं॑ स्व॒धयो॑रपी॒च्यं म॒दि॒न्त॒मो मत्सर॑ इन्द्रि॒यो रसः॑ ॥

IX-86-10

The All-Perfect *Soma* (God), Father and Protector of gods, give the great Light of knowledge, sweet and blessed, essential for worship and all its sacred offices. All the hidden treasures of Heaven and Earth He places (at the disposal of His devotees), Bliss unmingled that He is, He bestows (on them) the crown of Happiness and joy ineffable, (no wonder) He is adored by Indra Himself.

WILSON

The light of the sacrifice, he distils sweet (juice) delightful (to the gods), the parent of the gods, the generator (of all), possessor of ample wealth, he supports the hidden wealth of heaven and earth, the most exhilarating, the exciting (*Soma*), the nourisher of (Indra), the juice.

GRINTH

He, light of sacrifice, distils delicious meath, most wealthy, Father and begetter of the Gods.

He, gladdening, best of Cheerers, juice that Indra loves, enriches with mysterious treasure earth and heaven.

पुनान इ॒न्द्वा म॒र सोम॑ द्वि॒र्हसं॑ र॒यिम् ।  
 त्वं व॒र्ष॒नि पु॒ष्य॒सि वि॒श्वानि॑ दा॒शुषो॑ गृ॒हे ॥

IX-100-2

Indu Soma, Thou purifiest all Give us wealth, great and everlasting, in both worlds to him that dedicates his mind and heart to Thee Thou ever givest all the treasures of home

WILSON

Indu Soma, when purified bring us the riches of both worlds, thou fosterest all treasures in the house of the donor (of the libation)

GRIFFITH

O Indu, while they cleanse thee, bring, O Soma doubly-waxing wealth

Thou in the worshipper's abode causest all treasures to increase

त्वां रि॑हन्ति मा॒तरो॒ हरि॑ प॒वित्रे॑ अ॒द्रुहः॑ ।  
वत्सं॒ जा॒तं न॒ धे॒नवः॒ पव॑मान॒ वि॒घर्म॑णि ॥

IX-100-7

The seers who do no harm whatsoever to any creature ecstasically rejoice in Hari, with their hearts pure and holy, and bent to the highest Dharma—rejoice in Him as milch cows do in (*lit* fondly lick) their calf just born

WILSON

The innocent maternal (waters) caress thee, the green-tinted, upon the filter, O Pavamana, at the sacrifice, as milch kine caress their new-born calf

GRIFFITH

The mothers, void of guiles, caress thee, golden-coloured in the sieve,

As cows, O Pavamana, lick the new-born calf, as Law commands

आ जामि॒रत्के॑ अ॒व्यत॑ भु॒जे न पु॒त्र ओ॒ण्योः ।  
 स॒रेज्ज॒रो न यो॑ष॒णां व॒रो न यो॑नि॒मास॑दम् ॥

IX-101-14

God, our Kinsman, never failing and true, speeds all eager to the *Jiva*, even as a darling son leaps to the arms of his parents, as a lover hastens to his sweetheart, or as a bridegroom to his betrothed

WILSON

(Soma) the kinsman (of the gods) is enveloped in the investing filter like a child in the arms of its protecting parents, he hastens like a gallant to a mistress, like a bridegroom (to the bride), to sit upon his station (the pitcher)

GRIFFITH

The Friend hath wrapped him in his robe, as in his parents' arms, a son

He went, as lover to a dame, to take his station suitor-like

॥ वीरो दक्षसाधनो वि यस्तस्तम् रोदसी ।

हरिः पवित्रे अव्यत वेवा न योनिमासदम् ॥

IX-101-15

Golden-hued Hari (Soma), unconquerably valiant, who infuses strength into all, who upholds Heaven and Earth, loves to indwell the holy heart, even as one who has built a new house is all eager to occupy it

WILSON

The green-tinted (Soma), the implement of strength, the hero, who has upheld heaven and earth, is enveloped in the filter like the sacrificer (in his house) to sit upon his station

GRIFFITH

That Hero who produces strength, he who hath propped both worlds apart,

Gold-hued, hath wrapped him in the sieve, to settle, priest-like, in his place

परि कोशं मधुश्चुतमव्यये वारे अर्षति ।  
 अभि वाणीर्ऋषीणा सप्त नृषत ॥ ३ ॥

IX-103-3

Soma (God) bestows on us a treasure which brings us bliss eternal in a world that is most prizable and imperishable all the seven scriptures of the sages have sung high His glory

WILSON

The *Soma* sends forth (its juice) through the woollen fleece to the honey-dripping receptacle, the seven metres of the *Rishis* praise (it)

GRIFFITH

On through the long wool of the sheep to the m-ath-drop-  
 ping vat he flows

The *Rishis'* sevenfold quire hath sung aloud to him

परि' णेता म॒तीनां वि॒श्वेदे॑वो अ॒दा॒म्यः ।

सोमः पु॒नान॒श्च॒म्वो॑वि॒शद्भरिः॑ ॥ ४ ॥

IX-103-4

Infallible, verily, is the golden-hued Han, the Pilot and Impeller of our minds, in whom reside all gods: He, the Creator of the Universe (Soma) enters into Heaven and Earth in order to sanctify them.

WILSON.

*Soma*, the leader of praises, in whom all the gods are comprehended, unassailable, green-tinted when filtered, enters the cups

GRIFFITH

Shared by all Gods, infallible, the Leader of our holy hymns,  
Golden-hued Soma, being cleansed, hath reached the bowls



यत्र ज्योतिरजसं यस्मिँल्लोके स्वर्हितम् ।

तास्मिन्मां धेहि पवमानामृते लोके अक्षित इन्द्रायेन्दो परि सव ॥

IX-113-7

O Pavamana, transport me to that Immortal world that knows no decay, where Great Light shines eternally, where reigns Bliss supreme . Speed fast, then O mind, to the Almighty

WILSON

Where light is perpetual, in the world in which the sun is placed, in that immortal, imperishable world place me, Pavamana, flow Indu, for Indra

GRIFFITH

O Pavamana, place me in that deathless, undecaying world

Wherein the light of heaven is set, and everlasting lustre shines Flow Indu, flow for Indra's sake

यत्रानुका॒मं च॒रणं त्रि॒ना॒के त्रि॒दिवे॒ दि॒वः ।

लो॒का यत्र॒ ज्योति॑ष्मन्त॒स्तत्र॒ मा॒ममृ॑तं कृ॒षीन्द्रा॑येन्द्रो॒ परि॑ स॒व ॥

IX-113-9

Make me immortal in that world which is unimaginably more blissful, more luminous than Heaven, where reigns freedom absolute, of movement and action, the dwellers whereof are endowed with the Light of gnosis Speed fast, then, O mind, to the Almighty

Wilson

Where in the third heaven in the third sphere, the sun wanders at will where the regions are filled with light, there make me immortal flow, Indu, for Indra

Grimm

Make me immortal in that realm where they move even as they list

In the third sphere of inmost heaven where lucid worlds are full of light Flow, Indu flow for Indra's sake

यत्र कामा॑ नि॒कामाश्च॑ यत्र॑ ब्र॒ह्मस्य॑ वि॒ष्टपम् ।

स्व॒धा च॒ यत्र॑ तृ॒प्तिश्च॑ तत्र॑ मा॒ममृ॑तं कृ॒षीन्द्रा॑यिन्द्रो॒ परि॑ स्रव ॥

IX-113-10

Make me immortal in that world where our deepest yearnings and noblest aspirations find their crowning fruition, where dwells the Lord that dispels all darkness, where there is Freedom and Happiness. Speed fast, then, O mind, to the Almighty.

WILSON:

Where wishes and desires (are), where the region of the sun (is), where food and delight (are) found, there make me immortal, flow, Indu, for Indra

GRIFITH:

Make me immortal in that realm of eager wish and strong desire,

The region of the radiant Moon, where food and full delight are found. Flow, Indu, flow for Indra's sake.

यत्रा॑न॒न्दाश्च॑ मो॒दाश्च॑ मु॒दः प्र॒मुद॑ आ॒सते॑ ।

का॒मस्य॑ यत्रा॒प्ताः का॒मास्तत्र॑ मा॒ममृ॑तं कृ॒धीन्द्रा॑येन्द्रो॒ परि॑ स॒व ॥

IX-113-11

Make me immortal in that world which ever abounds in joys and felicities (in all their range), which is the home of happiness and ecstatic bliss, where all things longed for are attained and all wishes are fulfilled Speed fast, then O mind, to the Almighty

WILSON

Where there is happiness pleasures, joy and enjoyment, where the wishes of the wisher are obtained there make me immortal, flow, Indu, for Indra

GRIFITH

Make me immortal in that realm where happiness and transports, where

Joys and felicities combine, and longing wishes are fulfilled  
Flow, Indu, flow for Indra's sake

य इन्द्रोः पर्वमानस्यानु धामान्यक्रमीत् ।

तमहिः सुप्रजा इति यस्ते सोमाविधन्मन् इन्द्रायेन्द्रो परि स्रव ॥

IX-114-1

Him, O Lord (Soma), the wise call noble (great) who knows  
the glories of the Almighty (of Indu Pavamana), who has won  
(hit) Thy mind

WILSON

(*The Brahman*) who attends to the stations of the filtered  
Soma-juice—him men call rich in children, who applies his  
mind to thee, Soma, flow, Indu, for Indra

GRIFFITH

The man who walketh as the Laws of Indu Pavamana bid,—  
Men call him rich in children, him, O soma, who hath met  
thy thought Flow, Indu, flow for Indra's sake

*Selections from  
Mandala X*

प्रावे॒षा मा॑ वृ॒ह॒तो मा॑दयन्ति प्र॒याते॒जा इरि॑णे व॒वृ॒तानाः ।  
 सोम॑स्येव मौज॒वतस्य॑ भक्षो वि॒भीद॑को जा॒गृ॒र्विर्म॒हाम॑च्छान् ॥

X-34-1

The sizable nuts growing on lofty Vibhūdaka trees along windy slopes intoxicate and flutter me with joy This Vibhūdaka, which keeps me awake (all night), inebriates me like a draught of the *Soma* native to the Mujavat mountain

WILSON\*

The large rattling die exhilarates me as torrents borne on a precipice flowing in a desert, the exciting dice animate me ■ the taste of the *Soma* of Maujavat (delights the gods)

GRIFFITH

Sprung from tall trees on windy heights, these rollers transport me as they turn upon the table

Dearer to me the die that never slumbers than the deep draught of Mujavan's own *Soma*

GELDNER, KAEGI, ROTH

The nuts that once swayed on the lofty branches  
 Intoxicate me, rolling on the dice-board  
 The fruit of the Vibhūdaka can charm me,  
 As 'twere the *Soma* of the Mujantavas

MACDONELL

The dangling ones, born in a windy place, of the lofty (tree)  
gladden me as they roll on the dice-board Like the draught of  
the Soma from Mujavant, the enlivening Vibhūdaka has pleased  
me

MUM

These dice that roll upon the board  
To me intense delight afford  
Sweet Soma-juice has not more power  
To lure me in an evil hour



न मा॑ मि॒मेघ॑ न जि॒हीळ॑ ए॒षा शि॒वा सखि॑म्य॒ उत॑ म॒द्वमासीत् ।  
 ध॒क्षस्या॒हमे॒कपर॑स्य॒ हेतो॑रनु॒व्रता॑मर्ष॒ जायाम॑रोधम् ॥

X-34-2

This wife of mine has never been cross with me, nor has she ever offended me in the least; to me and my cronies she has been unfailingly good and gracious. Yet, in spite of her being so devoted and loving—wholly for the sake of dice so dear to me—I have nagged and pestered her.

WILSON:

This (my wife) has not been angry (with me), nor was she overcome with shame; kind was she to me and to my friends, yet for the sake of one or other die, I have deserted this affectionate spouse.

GRIFFITH:

She never vexed me nor was angry with me, but to my friends and me was ever gracious  
 For the die's sake, whose single point is final, mine own devoted wife I alienated.

GELDNER, KAEGI, ROTH:

My wife has never angered me nor striven,  
 Was ever kind to me and my companions;  
 Though she was faithful to me, I have spurned her.  
 For love of dice, the only thing I value.

MACDONELL

She does not scold me, she is not angry she was kind to  
friends and to me For the sake of a die too high by one I have  
driven away a devoted wife

MUTR

To strife and wrangling disinclined  
My gentle wife was always kind  
But I, absorbed in maddening play,  
Have chased this tender spouse away

द्वेष्टि<sup>१</sup> श्वश्रु<sup>२</sup>र्षं जाया रुणद्धि न नायितो विन्दते मर्दितारम् ।  
 अश्वस्येव जर्तो वस्यस्य नाहं विन्दामि कितवस्य भोगम् ॥

X-34-3

(I know.) my mother-in-law detests me, and my wife deprecates my craze, saying that a gamester when utterly impoverished, would not find a single friend to help him. Never, never, can I win to the gambler's paradise, a gambler being no better than a noble steed which, having grown old and weedy, eats its head off.

WILSON.

My mother-in-law reviles me, my wife opposes me, the beggar meets no compassionate (benefactor), I do not realize the enjoyment of the gamester any more than that of a valuable horse grown old

GRIFFITH

My wife holds me aloof, her mother hates me the wretched man finds none to give him comfort

As of a costly horse grown old and feeble, I find not any profit of the gamester.

GELDNER, KAEGI, ROTH:

My wife rejects me and her mother hates me,  
 The gamester finds no pity for his troubles  
 No better use can I see for a gambler,  
 Than for a costly horse worn out and aged.

MACDONELL:

My mother-in-law hates me, my wife drives me away. the  
man in distress finds none to pity him 'I find no more use in a  
gambler than in an aged horse that is for sale'

MUIR:

She now, in turn, my person spurns,  
Her mother's wrath against me burns  
Distressed and vexed, in vain I plead,  
For none will help me in my need

अ॒न्ये जा॒यां परि॑ मृ॒षन्त्यस्य॒ यस्या॑ गृ॒ध्रद॑दने वा॒ज्यः १ क्षः ।  
 पि॒ता मा॒ता आ॒त॑र ए॒नमाहु॑र्न जा॒नीमो॒ नर्य॑ता व॒द्धमे॒तम् ॥

X-34-4

Others are out to seduce the wife of the man whose wealth is all ravaged up by the powerful dice His father, mother and brothers tell (the bailiff) "We have washed our hands of him, you are welcome to bind him and take him away "

WILSON

Others touch the wife of him whose wealth the potent dice cover his mother, father, brothers say, "We know him not, take him away, bound (wherever you will)"

GRIFFITH

Others caress the wife of him whose riches the die hath coveted, that rapid courser

Of him speak father, mother, brothers saying we know him not, bind him and take him with you

GELDNER, KAEGI, ROTH

Upon his wife are laid the hands of others,

While his possessions by the dice are wasted

His father, mother, brothers,—all deny him!

"We know him not,—away with him in fetters "

MACDONELL

Others embrace the wife of him for whose possessions the  
victorious die has been eager Father, mother, brothers say of  
him, 'we know him not, lead him away bound'

MUTR

As wretched as a worn-out hack's,  
A gamester's life all joyance lacks  
His means by play away are worn,  
While gallants court his wife forlorn  
His father, mother, brothers shout,  
"The madman bind, and drag him out "

यदादीध्ये न द॑विपाण्येभिः परा॒यद्ध॒बोऽव॑ हीये॒ सखि॑म्यः ।  
 न्यु॒प्ताश्च॒ व॒स्रवो॒ वाच॒म॒कृ॒तं ए॒मीदे॑षां निष्कृ॒तं जा॒रिणी॑व ॥

X-34-5

When I resolve to play no more with dice I keep aloof from my friends, who thereupon rat me, one and all But the moment the brown nuts rattle on the dice-board again, I cannot resist the temptation of tearing along to the gambling-house, like a paramour to her assignation

WILSON

When I reflect, (then I say), "I will play no more with them " I pay attention to my friends who desert (me), and the tawny dice rattle as they are thrown, I hasten to their accustomed place as a harlot to her assignation

GRIFFITH

When I resolve to play with these no longer my friends depart from me and leave me lonely

When the brown dice, thrown on the board, have rattled, like a fond girl I seek the place of meeting

GELDNER, KAEGI, ROTH

And when I say that I will play no longer,  
 My friends abandon me and all desert me,  
 Yet when again I hear the brown dice rattling,  
 I hasten, like a wanton to her lover

*MACDONELL*

When I think to myself, 'I will not go with them, I shall be left behind by my friends as they depart (to play)', and the brown ones, thrown down, have raised their voices, I go straight, like a courtesan, to their place of assignation

*MUIR*

At times,—the scorn of every friend,—  
I try my foolish ways to mend,  
Resolve no more my means to waste  
On this infatuated taste  
But all in vain when, coming near  
The rattle of the dice I hear,  
I rush, attracted by their charms  
Like lady to her lover's arms



समामेति कितवः पृच्छमानो जेष्यामीति तन्वाः शूशुजानः ।  
 अक्षासो अस्य वि तिरन्ति कामं प्रतिदीने दधत जा कृतानि

X-34-6

A gamester hurries up to the gambling-house—his person gaudily tricked out—telling his interlocutor “Today I shall surely win”; the dice give a maddening edge to his passion and he stakes his belongings, lock, stock and barrel, to his opponent.

WILSON:

The gamester goes to the gaming-table, radiant in person, and asking himself, “Shall I win?” The dice increase his passion for play as he practises the arts of (gambling) with his adversary

GRIFFITH:

The gamester seeks the gambling house, and wonders, his body all afire, Shall I be lucky?

Still do the dice extend his eager longing, staking his gains against his adversary.

GELDNER, KÄGL, ROTH.

The gambler hurries to the gaming table,  
 “Today I will win,” he thinks in his excitement  
 The dice inflame his greed, his hopes mount higher,  
 He leaves his winnings all with his opponent

## MACDONELL

The gambler goes to the assembly hall, asking himself, 'shall I conquer', trembling with his body ' The dice run counter to his desire, bestowing on his adversary at play the lucky throws

## MUTR

As to his game the gambler hies,  
Once more his hopes of winning rise,  
And loss but more his ardour fires,  
To tries his luck he never tires

अ॒क्षास॒ इद॑द्कु॒शिनो॑ नितो॒दिनो॑ नि॒कृत्वा॑न॒स्तप॑नास्तापयि॒ष्णवः॑ ।  
 कु॒मारदे॑ष्णा जय॑तः पुन॒र्हणो॒ मध्वा॒ सम्पृ॑क्ताः कि॒तव॑स्य॒ बर्ह॑णा ॥

X-34-7

The dice goad and whip me on, they are vengeful and deadly,  
 they throw me into a frenzy, oh, how they torment me!  
 While they fool the winner with short-lived spoils, with a  
 deceptive sweetness they eat him out of house and home, ruining  
 him utterly

WILSON

Dice verily are armed with hooks, with goads, pricking,  
 paining and torturing (the gamester) to the winning (player)  
 they are the givers of sons, they are tipped with honey, slaying  
 him in return by taking away the gambler's (all)

GRIFFITH

Dice, verily, are armed with goads and driving hooks, deceiv-  
 ing and tormenting, causing grievous woe

They give frail gifts and then destroy the man who wins,  
 thickly anointed with the player's fairest good

MACDONELL

The dice are hooked, piercing, deceitful, burning and causing  
 to burn, presenting gifts like boys, striking back the victors,  
 sweetened with honey by magic power over the gambler

Muir:

The dice their victims hook and tear,  
Disturbing, torturing, false though fair,  
The transient gains they yield to-day,  
To-morrow all are swept away

त्रिपञ्चाशः क्रीळति व्रात एषां देवईव सविता सत्यधर्मी ।  
 उग्रस्य चिन्मन्यवे ना नमन्ते राजा चिदंभ्यो नम इत्कृणोति ।

X-34-8

The (this) gang of gamesters, pretending to be as god-like and true as the sun, ventures the game time and again (*lit* fifty-three times); but the dice will not truckle to the rage of a contestant, however truculent; even the king must eat humble pie before them.

WILSON:

The aggregate fifty-three of them are played as the divine truth, observant Savitri (travels): the dice bow not before the wrath of any, however violent, a king himself pays them homage.

GRIFFITH:

Merrily sports their troop, the three-and-fifty, like Savitar the God whose ways are faithful

They bend not even to the mighty's anger: the King himself pays homage and reveres them

MACDONELL:

Their host of three fifties plays like god Savitar whose laws are true: they bow not before the wrath of even the mighty, even a king pays them obeisance

MURR

These sportive dice, a potent band,  
The destinies of men command  
They laugh to scorn the fierce man's frown,  
Before them doughty kings bow down

नीचा वर्तन्त उपरि' स्फुरन्त्यहस्तासो हस्तमन्तं सहन्ते ।  
 दिव्या अद्भारा इरिणे न्युप्ताः शीताः सन्तो हृदयं निर्दहन्ति ॥

X-34-9

(Says the player) Downward they roll on the dice-board, but (in my mind) they bob up high, handless themselves, they vanquish those that have (powerful) hands Cast on the board they shine like glowing embers, they are cool, no doubt, but how they burn up my heart!

WILSON

Now they abide below, now they palpitate on high, handless, they overpower him who has hands, cast upon the dice-board like coals from the sky, even though cold they burn the heart

GRIFFITH

Downward they roll, and then spring quickly upward, and handless, force the man with hands to serve them

Cast on the board, like lumps of magic charcoal, though cold themselves they burn the heart to ashes

MACDONELL

They roll down, they spring upward Though without hands, they overcome him that has hands Divine coals thrown down upon the gaming-board, being cold, they burn up the heart

MUR:

They downward roll, they upward bound,  
And handless, *men with hands confound.*  
They scorch the heart like brands, these dice,  
Although themselves as cold as ice.



जाया तप्यते कितवस्य हीना माता पुत्रस्य चरतः कं स्वित् ।

ऋणावा विम्यद्भनमिच्छमानोऽन्येषामस्तमुप नक्तमेति ॥

X-34-10

The forlorn wife of the gambler writhes in agony, his mother, on seeing her son a homeless wanderer, is heart-struck with grief. Over head and ears in debt, the gambler is in dread of any and every one, constantly in dire need of money, he crouches at nightfall to the roof of strangers, to beg, borrow (—or who knows—to burgle)

WILSON

The deserted wife of the gamester is afflicted the mother (grieves) for the son wandering wherever he likes, involved in debt, ever in fear, anxious for wealth, (the gambler) goes forth by night to the dwellings of others (to plunder)

GRIFFITH

The gambler's wife is left forlorn and wretched. The mother mourns the son who wanders homeless.

In constant fear, in debt, and seeking riches, he goes by night into the home of others.

GELDNER, KAEGI, ROTH

The gambler's wife deserted mourns, his mother  
Laments her son, she knows not where he wanders.  
And he, in debt and trouble, seeking money,  
Remains at night beneath the roof of strangers

MACDONELL

Forsaken the wife of the gambler is grieved, the mother (too)  
of the son that wanders who knows where Indebted, fearing,  
desiring money he approaches at night the house of others

MUIR

The gambler's hapless wife is sad  
His mother mourns her wayward lad  
In want, at night he seeks relief  
By *graceless shifts a trembling thief*

स्त्रियं दृष्ट्वायं कित्तु ततापान्येषां जायां सुकृतं च योनिम् ।

पूर्वाह्णे अश्वान्युयुजे हि धमून्त्सो अग्नेरन्ते वृषलः पपाद ॥

X-34-11

The gambler on seeing the well-adorned wife and well-appointed house of another is sorely cut up In the early morning he yokes his brown horses, and at nightfall the poor wretch slumps downcast by the fireside

WILSON

The gamester, having observed the happy wife and well-ordered home of others, suffers regret yet in the forenoon he puts to the tawny steeds, and at night the sinner lies down by the fire

GRIFFITH

Sad is the gambler when he sees a matron, another's wife, and his well-ordered dwelling

He yokes the brown steeds in the early morning, and when the fire is cold sinks down an outcast

GILDER KAEGI ROTH

It grieves the gambler when he sees another  
With wife and happy home untouched by trouble  
He yokes the brown steeds in the early morning,  
And when the fire goes out he sinks degraded

MACDONELL.

It pains the gambler when he sees a woman, the wife of others and their well-ordered home Since he yokes the brown horses in the morning, he falls down (in the evening) near the fire, a beggar.

MUTR

He groans to see his wretched wife,  
And then the happy wives, and life,  
Of others, free from care and strife  
His bad career, with morning light  
Begun, in ruin ends by night

यो वः सेनानीर्महतो गुणस्य राजा वार्तस्य प्रथमो बभूव ।  
 तस्मै कृणोमि न घनां रुणधि दद्याहं प्राचीस्तद्वत् वंदामि ॥

X-34-12

(Says the gambler) I bow and bid adieu forever to the general and king of the notorious crew who always comes atop, victorious. No more will I stake my money and valuables and lose to him. I shall stretch my ten fingers to keep him at arm's length thus I solemnly swear

WILSON

Dice, I offer salutation to him who has been the general of your great army, the chief lord of your host. I do not provide him with wealth. I raise my ten (fingers) to the east, that (which) I speak (is) the truth.

GRIFFITH

To the great captain of your mighty army, who has become the host's imperial leader,

To him I show my ten extended fingers. I speak the truth  
 No wealth am I withholding

MACDONELL

To him who as the general of your great throng, as king has become the first of your host, I stretch forth my ten fingers—  
 'I withhold no money—thus is truth I say'

H. R. 22

MUTR:

To him, the Chief who leads your bands,  
He Dice, I lift my suppliant hands  
"I hail thy gifts, when those art kind,  
But crave thy leave to speak my mind "

अक्षैर्मा दीव्यः कृपिमित्कृपस्व वित्ते रमस्व बहु मन्यमानः ।  
तत्र गावः कितव तत्र जाया तन्मे वि चेष्टे सवितायमयः ॥

X-34-13

Play not with dice—no, never! Take to farming and agriculture: rest contented and happy with the wealth it brings you. That way alone will you, O gambler, come to own many head of cattle and live a happy conjugal life. This is the secret that the Lord and Moral Governor of the Universe has revealed to me.

WILSON:

Giving serious attention (to my advice), play not with dice: pursue agriculture: delight in wealth (so acquired): there, gambler, are cows: there is wife; so has this (visible) sovereign Savitri declared to me.

GRIFFITH:

Play not with dice: no, cultivate thy corn-land. Enjoy the gain, and deem that wealth sufficient.

There are thy cattle, there thy wife, O gambler. So this good Savitar himself hath told me.

MACDONELL:

'Play not with dice; ply thy tillage; rejoice in thy property, thinking much of it; there are thy cattle, O gambler, there thy wife': this Savitar here, the noble, reveals to me.

MUIR·

“Forgive me, King of all the Dice,  
If thus I give *my friend* advice,  
Abandon play, and till the soil,  
For this shall better pay thy toil ”



मित्रं कृणुष्वं खलु मृळता नो मा नो घोरेण चरतामि धृष्यु ।  
 नि वो नु मन्युर्विशतामरातिरन्यो बभ्रुणां प्रसितौ न्वस्तु ॥

X-34-14

(Ye gods!) Bless us with your benign friendship; bestow on us happiness. Bear not down on us with your awful fury: may your stern displeasure—our dire foe—calm down at once: let us never (for Heaven's sake) be captives to the brown nuts (the dice).

WILSON:

Be friends with us (dice), bestow upon us happiness, approach us not in terrible wrath; let your anger light on our enemies; let our enemy fall under the bondage of the tawny (dice).

GRIFFITH:

Make me your friend: show me some little mercy. Assail us not with your terrible fierceness.

Appeased be your Malignity and anger, and let the brown dice snare some other captive.

MACDONELL:

Pray make friendship, be gracious to us. Do not forcibly bewitch us with magic power. Let your wrath, your enmity now come to rest. Let another now be in the toils of the brown ones.

MUTR.

"Well pleased with what thou hast, forbear  
To crave of wealth an ampler share"  
"Thy wife, thy line, —in these rejoice,"  
Thus cries a god with warning voice  
Be gracious, Dice, we now implore,  
Bewitch us with your spells no more  
From us withdraw, to us be kind,  
And others with your fetters bind

रायसोपं' सौत्रवसाय' धीमाहि तदेवानामवो' अद्या वृणीमहे ॥७॥

X-36-7

We beseech this boon, in especial, of God, that we right from now on consider it a duty to acquire inexhaustible store, nay, the horn of plenty, solely in order to promote the well-being of all

WILSON

We meditate upon them for the attainment of abundant food we solicit today the protection of the gods

GRIFFITH

May we increase our wealth to glorify our name We crave this gracious favour of the Gods today

अपां पे॒रुं जी॒वर्ष॑न्यं भ॒राम॑हे दे॒वाव्यं सु॒ह॒र्वम॑ध्व॒राश्रि॑यम् ।  
 सु॒र॒दि॒म सो॒ममि॑न्द्रि॒यं यमी॑महि॒ तद्दे॒वाना॑मवो॒ अ॒द्या वृ॑णीमहे ॥

X-36-8

Our entire fortune let us pour into the lap of that man who fulfils his (true) life's mission, by whom other souls find happiness, who wins the grace of God (by his piety) whose vocation is honourable, who regards the sacrifices he has made as the very crown of his riches We beseech this boon, in especial, of God, that we from now on come to have minds so enlightened that we may rein in our senses

WILSON

We offer the *Soma*, the protector of the waters, affluent in life, the delighter of the gods, who is well praised, the glory of sacrifice, the brilliant-rayed, the vigour which we desire we solicit today this protection of the gods

•

GRIFFITH

We bring the Stay of Life, who makes the waters swell, swift-hearing, Friend of Gods, who waits on sacrifice

May we control that Power, *Soma*, whose rays are bright  
 We crave this gracious favour of the Gods today

स॒नेम॒ तत्सु॑स॒निता॑ स॒नित्वा॑भिर्व॒यं जी॒वा जी॒वपु॑त्रा अना॒गसः॑ ।  
 ब्र॒ह्मद्वि॒यो वि॒ष्वगे॒नो॑ मरे॒रत॒ तदे॒वाना॑म॒यो॑ अ॒द्या वृ॑णीमहे ॥

X-36-9

We beseech this boon, in especial, of God, that we and our sons, worthy of being called *Jeevas*, be free from every description of sin or delinquency, that we earn our competence through means fair and honest, earn it in the company of others equally honest, with our fair, name unsullied Let God-haters be vessels of sin, it will never irk us

WILSON

Living with living offspring, and free from fault, let us make offerings (to the gods), sharing with those who share with us may those who hate the Brahmans carry off our iniquity in different directions we solicit today this protection of the gods

GRIFFITH

Alive ourselves, with living sons, devoid of guilt, may we win this with winners by fair means to win

Let the prayer-haters bear our sin to every side We crave this gracious favour of the Gods today

म॒ह॒द॒द्य॒ म॒ह॒ता॒मा वृ॒णी॒महे॒ऽवो॑ दे॒वाना॑ वृ॒ह॒ता॒म॒न॒र्व॒णा॑म् ।  
 य॒या व॒सु वी॒र॒जा॒तं न॒शो॒म॒है तदे॒वाना॑म॒वो अ॒द्या वृ॒णी॒महे ॥

X-36-11

We beseech this great boon of all high souled beings, of great divinities, of saints unspotted, and more than all, of the Supreme God, that we come by our riches by our own effort, heroic and noble.

WILSON

We implore today the especial protection of the mighty, the great, the irresistible, gods, that we may obtain riches and male progeny We solicit today this protection of the gods

GRIFITHS

We crave the gracious favour of the Gods today, great favour of great Gods, sublime and free from foes,

That we may gain rich treasure sprung from hero-sons  
 We crave this gracious favour of the Gods today

न ते अदे॑वः प्र॒दि॒वो नि वा॑सते॒ यदे॑ त॒शेभिः॑ प॒त॒रै र॑य॒र्यसि॑ ।  
 प्रा॒चीन॑म॒न्यद॑नु॒ वर्त॑ते रज॒ उ॒द॒न्येन॒ ज्योति॑षा॒ यासि॑ सूर्य ॥

X-37-3

Thy own, innate brightness (or hue) O Surya, looked far other than what it is now, for it was nothing different from the common, but now we see Thee possessed of a transcendent splendence, not Thy own

WILSON

No ancient *Rakshasa* abides SURYA, near thee when those desirest to yoke to thy chariot thy rapid steeds:

One ancient radiance follows (thee) whilst thou risest with another

GRIFFITH

No godless man from time remotest draws these down when thou art driving forth with winged, dappled Steeds

One lustre waits upon thee moving to the east, and Surya, thou arisest with a different light

तं नो द्यावा॑पृथि॒वी तच्च॑ आ॒प इन्द्रः॑ गृ॒ण्वन्तु॑ म॒रुतो॑ ह॒वं व॑र्चः ।  
 मा शूने॑ म॒म सूर्य॑स्य स॒न्धिशे॑ भ॒द्रं जी॑र्वन्तो ज॒रुणाम॑शीमाहि ॥

X-37-6

May Heaven and Earth, may the waters, may Indra and the Maruts (the Winds), hearken to our prayer—that none of us drawing breath under the all-seeing eye of the Sun see any misery whatsoever; that we, blessed with every circumstance of well-being, attain the fullness of years

Earth, may the waters, may Indra and the  
 and this our praise: may we not  
 of the Sun: living long, may we attain

ords may Heaven and Earth,  
 aruts hear.  
 of the Sun, and, living



तं नो घावा॑ष्टि॒धिवी तन्न आप॒ इन्द्रः॑ शृण्वन्तु म॒रुतो॒ हव॑ वचः ।  
 मा शूने॑ मृम॒ सूर्य॑स्य स॒न्दशि॑ म॒द्रं जीव॑न्तो ज॒रुणाम॑शमिहि ॥

X-37-6

May Heaven and Earth, may the waters, may Indra and the Maruts (the Winds), hearken to our prayer—that none of us drawing breath under the all-seeing eye of the Sun see any misery whatsoever; that we, blessed with every circumstance of well-being, attain the fullness of years

WILSON:

May heaven and earth, may the waters, may Indra and the Maruts, hear this our invocation and thus our praise: may we not be in sorrow at the sight of the Sun: living long, may we attain a prosperous old age.

GRIFFITH:

This invocation, these our words may Heaven and Earth, and Indra and the waters and the Maruts hear.

Ne'er may we suffer want in presence of the Sun, and, living happy lives, may we attain old age.

वि॒श्वार्हा॑ त्वा सु॒मन॑सः सु॒चक्ष॑सः प्र॒जाव॑न्तो अ॒नमी॒वा अना॑गसः  
उ॒द्यन्तं॑ त्वा मि॒त्रम॑हो दि॒वेदि॑ वे ज्यो॒ग्जी॒वाः प्र॒ति॑ पश्येम सूर्य ॥

X-37-7

May we, O Sun, our Friend adored, eagerly await, morn by morn (*lit.* day by day), to greet Thee with glad welcome ■ Thou risest—to greet Thee over all the days of our life, blessed with brilliant intellect and large heart, clear and bright vision, health proof to all illness, noble offspring and, above all, character free from stain or blemish.

WILSON:

May we, constantly happy in mind, sound of sight, blessed with posterity, exempt from illness, devoid of sin, daily (worship thee): may we, enjoying long life, behold thee, Surya, who art the cherisher of thy friends rising day by day.

GRIFFITH:

Cheerful in spirit, evermore, and keen of sight, with store of children, free from sickness and from sin

Long-living, may we look, O Surya, upon thee uprising day by day, thou great as Mitra is!

यस्य ते विश्वा भुव॑नानि के॒तुना॒ प्र चे॒रते॒ नि च॒ वि॒शन्ते॑ अ॒क्षुभिः॑ ।  
 अ॒नागा॑स्त्वेन॒ हरि॑केश॒ सूर्या॑र्ह॒द्वा नो॒ वस्य॑सा॒वस्य॑सोदि॒दि ॥

X-37-9

O Sun, Hari's staunch devotee, with that light of Thine wherewith all these worlds are clothed with radiance by day, and shrouded in darkness by night, lead us on day after day to higher and higher levels of well-being and blemishless character.

WILSON:

Golden-haired Surya, by whose guidance all beings move (by day), and repose by night, do thou come to us with freedom from sin, and more felicitous (life), every day.

GRIFFITH:

Thou by whose lustre all the world of life comes forth, and by thy beams again returns unto its rest,

O Surya with the golden hair, ascend for us day after day, still bringing purer innocence.

यदो॑ देवाश्चकृ॒म जिह॒यां गुरु॑ मन॒सो वा प्रयु॑ती दे॒वहे॒ळनम् ।  
 अरा॑वा यो नो॑ अ॒मि दु॑च्छुनायते तस्मिन्तदे॒नो॑ वसवो॒ नि धे॑तन ॥

X-37-12

O all-pervading God, whatever heinous sin we may have committed—be it one of downright jeeting at God or scorn of Him—by tongue, mind, or action, blame it, we pray, on that haughty and perverse God-hater ever busy tempting us to evil paths.

WILSON:

Whatever sin, great and exciting the wrath of the gods, we have committed against you, O gods, by the tongue, or the working of the mind, do you, Vasus, transfer that sin to him, who assailing terrifies us

GRIFFITH:

If by some grievous sin we have provoked the Gods, O Deities, with the tongue or thoughtlessness of heart,

That guilt, O Vasus, lay upon the Evil One, on him who ever leads us into deep distress

य इ॒मा वि॒श्वा भुव॑नानि जुह॒वपि॒होता न्यसी॑दत् पि॒ता नः ।

स आ॒शिषा॒ द्रवि॑णमिच्छ॒मानः प्रथ॑मच्छद॒वराँ आ वि॑वेश ॥

X-81-1

God, the All-seeing, our Protector and Destroyer (Hotri), after He has dissolved all the worlds, alone remains In order to bestow the supreme blessing of final Beatitude on Jeevas—  
His inferiors all—He first created them and then entered them

WILSON

The *Rishi*, the *Hotri*, our father who offering all these worlds has taken his seat, desiring wealth by pious benedictions, the first inventor has entered inferior (beings)

GRIFFITH

He who sate down as Hotar-priest, the *Rishu*, our Father, offering up all things existing,—

He, seeking through his wish a great possession, came among men on earth as archetypal

किं स्वि'दासीदधिष्ठानंमारम्भणं कतमत्स्वि'त्कथासीत् ।  
 यतो भूमिं' जनयन्विश्वकर्मा वि द्यामौर्षोन्महिना विश्वचक्षाः ॥

X-81-2

What was the posi sto (the place wherefrom to operate) ?  
 What was the material and how did it turn into this universe ?  
 From where, with what, and how, did the Omnific, Omniscient  
 God, intent on Creation, produce this earth and Heaven by  
 virtue of His infinite power ?

WILSON

What was the station ? What was the material ? How was it  
 done ? so that the beholder of all, Vishwakarma (was) generat-  
 ing and disclosed heaven by his might

GRIFFITH

What was the place whereon he took his station ? What was  
 it that supported him ? How was it ?

Whence Visvakarma seeing all, producing the earth, with  
 mighty power disclosed the heavens

विश्वतश्चक्षुरु विश्वतो'मुखो विश्वतो'बाहुस्त विश्वतस्पात् ।  
 स बाहुभ्यां धर्मेति सं पतनैर्वावाभूमी जनयन्द्रेव एकः ॥

X-81-3

His eyes see all He is omnipresent, His arms reach out everywhere His feet outrange all space, God, the sole Creator, Himself dynamises Heaven and Earth, along with everything that finds its place in them

WILSON

Having eyes everywhere, and having a face everywhere, having arms everywhere, and having feet everywhere, he traverses (heaven) with his arms, (earth) with his swift-moving (feet), and exists a god without a companion generating heaven and earth

GRIFFITH

He who hath eyes on all sides round about him, a mouth on all sides, arms and feet on all sides,

He, the Sole God, producing earth and heaven, weldeth them, with his arms as wings, together

किं स्विद्वनं क उ स वृक्ष आस यतो द्यावापृथिवी निष्टतक्षुः ।  
 मनीषिणो मनसा पृच्छतेदु तद्यदध्यतिष्ठद्भुवनानि धारयन् ॥

X-81-4

What was the forest and what the tree, whereof the Master-BUILDER fashioned Heaven and Earth? Inquire within yourselves, ye sage thinkers: "whereon did He stand planted, when holding the worlds in His hand to shape them into what they are?"

WILSON.

Which was the forest, which the tree, from which they fabricated heaven and earth? Inquire, sages, in your minds what (place) he was stationed in when holding the worlds.

GRIFFITH.

What was the tree, what wood in sooth produced it, from which they fashioned out the earth and heaven?

Ye thoughtful men inquire within your spirit whereon he stood when he established all things



विश्वकर्मन् ह॒विषा॑ वावृ॒धानः स्वय॑ यज॒स्व पृथि॒वीमु॒त द्याम् ।  
मुह्य॑न्त्व॒न्ये अ॒मितो॒ जना॑स इ॒हास्माकं॑ ग॒घवा॑ सु॒रिर॑स्तु ॥

X-81-6

Overjoyed with our prayers, do Thou, Great Architect of the Cosmos, make us worship Thee, as residing in Earth and Heaven  
As for the others, the sceptics around us, let them lie wrapt in their dark delusion only, we pray that God (i.e. Thyself), All-Knowing and All-Powerful, should, ever and ever, be with us

WILSON

Vishwakarman magnified by the oblation, do thou of thyself worship earth and heaven let other men (who offer no oblations) be everywhere confounded, may he, rich in oblations, be the granter of heaven at this our (sacrifice)

GRIFITH

Bring thou thyself exalted with oblation, O Visvakarman,  
Earth and Heaven to worship

Let other men around us live in folly here let us have a rich  
and liberal patron

वाचस्पतिं विश्वकर्माणमूतये मनोजुवं वीजे अद्या हुवेम ।  
 स नो विश्वानि हवनानि जोषद्विश्वशम्भूरवसे साधुर्कर्म ॥

X-81-7

For our own all-round well-being, let us now invoke Him, the All-Doer, the Custodian and Leit-motif of all the Vedas, who impels our minds, may He of glorious deeds, the Giver of Bliss to all, rejoice in all our prayers

WILSON

Let us this day invoke for our protection the lord of speech the creator of all, who is swift as thought, may he, the bestower of all happiness, the doer of good works, be propitiated by all our oblations, (so as) to grant us his protection

GRIFFITH

Let us invoke today, to aid our labour, the Lord of Speech, the thought-swift Visvatarman

May he hear kindly all our invocations who gives all bliss for aid, whose works are righteous

चक्षुषः पिता मनसा हि धीरो घृतमेने अजुन्नममाने ।  
 यदेदन्ता अददहन्त पूर्वं आदिद् चावाश्रयिवी अप्रयेताम् ॥

X-82-1

The Omniscient Being, Maker and Animator of the senses headed by the mind, first created water, and presently, Heaven and Earth, which in incessant adoration bow unto Him. Directly, after the boundaries of Heaven and Earth were firmly fixed, aeons ago, they began to expand, each in its own way

WILSON

The maker of the senses, resolute in mind, engendered the water, (and then) these two (heaven and earth) floating (on the waters), when those ancient boundaries were fixed, then the heaven and earth were expanded

GRIFFITH

The father of the eye, the Wise in spirit, created both these worlds submerged in fatness

Then when the eastern ends were firmly fastened, the heavens and the earth were far extended

वि॒श्व॒क॒र्मा॑ वि॒म॒ना॒ आ॒दि॒ह्या॑ घा॒ता वि॑घा॒ता पर॑मो॒त सं॒दृक् ।  
तेषा॑मि॒ष्टानि॒ समि॒षा भ॑द॒न्ति॒ यत्रा॑ स॒प्त॒र॒षी॒न्पर॑ ए॒कमा॑हुः ॥

X-82-2

The All-doer—The Power Supreme behind all going on—the Great-Hearted Being pervading the entire vastitude of Space—He creates all things of use and dispenses them according to need and desert, He oversees and scans all things with a searching minuteness, meticulously assessing each. Brahman-knowers speak of Him as infinitely transcending the starry world of the Seven Sages (or as infinitely outsoaring the seven senses) To attain Him is to have all our longings and aspirations blissfully fulfilled.

WILSON

Vishakarma, of comprehensive mind and manifold greatness, is all-pervading, the creator, the arranger and the supreme supervisor, him in whom the desires of their (senses) are satisfied with food, they call (him) supreme beyond the seven Rishis

GRIFFITH

Mighty in mind and power is Visvakarma, Maker, Disposer and lofty Presence

Their offerings joy in rich juice where they value One, only One, beyond the Seven Rishis

EDGERTON

The All-maker (is) wise, likewise mighty, the creator, disposer,  
also the Highest Aspect The sacrifices revel with nourishment  
(in paradise), where beyond the (constellation) Seven Sages they  
say is the one (God All-Maker)

यो नः पि॒ता ज॑नि॒ता यो वि॑धा॒ता धा॑म॒ानि वे॒द् भुव॑नानि वि॒श्वा ।

यो दे॒वानां॑ ना॒म॒धा ए॒क ए॒व तं स॑म्प्र॒थं भुव॑ना यन्त्य॒न्या ॥

X-82-3

Father and Protector of us all, He metes out rewards and punishments. All worlds are to Him an open book, and He knows every station and place (i.e. those to be assigned to each *Jeeva*). He alone bears the names of all gods and He alone can rightfully question our ways and behaviour. In him, no wonder all beings seek refuge.

EDGERTON:

Who is our Father, our Generator, and our Disposer, who knows all places and creatures, who is the sole name-giver of the Gods, to Him other beings go to ask.

त आर्यजन्त॒ द्रवि॑णं॒ सम॑स्मा ऋ॒षयः॒ पूर्वे॑ जरि॒तारो॒ न भू॒ना ।  
अ॒सूते॒ सूते॒ रज॑सि नि॒पते॒ ये भू॒तानि॑ सम॒कृण्व॑न्नि॒मानि॑ ॥

X-82-4

The rulers of beings living in the highest, middle, and lowest regions, offer up to Him as worship all their treasured possessions, even as the *Rishis* of yore who hymned the Lord dedicated their outpouring hosannas to Him

WILSON

Those ancient *Rishis* who adorned (with light) these beings in the animate and inanimate world, offer to him wealth (of sacrifice) as praisers with abundant (laudation)

GRIFFITH

To him in sacrifice they offered treasures,—*Rishis* of old, in numerous troops, as singers,

Who in the distant, near, and lower regions made ready all these things that have existence

EDGERTON

Those ancient sages offered rich sacrifice unto him (the All-Maker), like (present-day) singers with their abundance,

(The ancient sages) who, when the sun-lit and the unsun-lit spaces had been set down, created these beings



प॒रो दि॒वा प॒र ए॒ना पृ॒थि॒व्या प॒रो दे॒वेभि॒रसु॒रैर्य॒दास्ति॑ ।  
 कं स्वि॒द्रमं॑ प्रथ॒मं द॑ध् आपो॒ यत्र॑ दे॒वाः स॒मप॑श्यन्त॒ विश्वे॑ ॥

X-82-5

He who is beyond the Heavens, beyond this Earth, beyond the gods, beyond the *asuras*, who is the mysterious Cause of the Universe, the Primal Germ, —Him, verily, did the waters bear on their own surface

WILSON

What was the embryo which was beyond the heaven, beyond this earth, beyond the gods, beyond the *Asuras*, which the waters first retained in which all the gods first contemplated each other?

GRIFFITH

That which is earlier than this earth and heaven, before the *Asuras* and Gods had being,—

What was the germ primeval which the waters received where all the Gods were seen together?

GELDER, KARCI, ROTH

Far out beyond this earth, beyond the heavens,  
 Far, too, beyond the living gods and spirits,  
 What earliest germ was hidden in the waters,  
 In which the gods were all beheld together?

EDGERTON: .

That which is beyond the Heaven, beyond the Earth, beyond the Asura Gods—what verily was the First embryo which the waters bore in which (waters) the gods all beheld themselves together?

तमिद्रुमं<sup>१</sup> प्रथमं दध्रु<sup>२</sup> आपो यत्र देवाः समा<sup>३</sup>च्छन्त<sup>४</sup> विश्वे<sup>५</sup> ।  
 अजस्य नाभावच्येकमपि<sup>६</sup> त यस्मिन्विश्वानि भुव<sup>७</sup>नानि तस्थुः ॥

X-82-6

The waters bore within them this Primal Germ (of the Cosmos), wherein are forgathered all the gods, all the worlds reside, indeed, in that which is installed in the navel of the Unborn

WILSON

The waters verily first retained the embryo in which all the gods were aggregated, single, deposited on the navel of the unborn (creator) in which all beings abide

GRANTH

The waters, they received that germ primeval wherein the Gods were gathered all together

It rested set upon the Unborn's navel, that One wherein abide all things existing

EILDON, KAIGI, ROTH

The waters held that earliest germ within them  
 In which the living gods were all united  
 That One lay in the bosom of the unborn,  
 And all created beings rested in it

तमिद्रुमं<sup>१</sup> प्रथमं दध्रु आपो यत्र देवाः समगच्छन्त विश्वे<sup>१</sup> ।

अजस्य नाभावध्येकमर्षितं यस्मिन्विश्वानि भुवनानि तस्थुः ॥

X-82-6

The waters bore within them this Primal Germ (of the Cosmos), wherein are forgathered all the gods, all the worlds reside, indeed, in that which is installed in the navel of the Unborn.

WILSON

The waters verily first retained the embryo in which all the gods were aggregated, single, deposited on the navel of the unborn (creator), in which all beings abide

GAJISTH

The waters, they received that germ primeval wherein the Gods were gathered all together

It rested set upon the Unborn's navel, that One wherein abide all things existing

EDGEON.

He (the All-Maker) and no other was the first embryo which the waters bore, in which (waters) the gods were all assembled together, the One (embryo) implanted in the navel of the Unborn, on which all the worlds have rested

न तं वि॑दाथ॒ य इ॒मा ज॒जाना॑ऽन्यद्यु॒ष्माक॑मन्तरं॒ वमू॑व ।  
 नी॒हारेण॑ प्रावृ॒ता जल्प्या॑ चाऽसु॒तृष॑ उक्थ॒शास॑श्चरन्ति ॥

X-82-7

Him who has created all these worlds, alas, ye know not, unbridgeable is the gulf between Him and you. A good many roam the earth chanting and teaching the hymns (of the Vedas) but (for all that) most of them are befogged in nescience, caught up in the frantic struggle to gratify their fleshly cravings, nevertheless they incessantly prate of things they least understand.

WILSON

You know not him who has generated these (beings), (his life) is another, different from yours—wrapped in fog, and foolish speech (do they) wander (who are) gluttonous and engaged in devotion.

GRANTHA

Ye will not find him who produced these creatures ; another thing hath risen up among you.

Enwrap in misty cloud, with lips that stammer, hymn-chanters wander and are discontented.

DGERTON

You shall not find him who created these (worlds), something else has come between you (and him) Enveloped in fog and chatter walk the reciters of hymns, the robbers of lives

उ॒मा उ॑ नूनं॑ तदि॒दर्शये॒थे वि त॑न्वा॒थे धि॒यो व॒स्त्रा॒पसे॑व ।

स॒ध्री॒ची॒ना या॒त्तवे॒ प्रे॒म॒जी॒गः सु॒दिने॑व॒ पृ॒क्ष आ त॑सये॒थे ॥

X-106-1

As weavers of rare craftsmanship produce (superfine) fabrics (of endless variety), O Aswins, ye fashion minds (infinitely varied and marvellous) Like golden days ye bring us food, copious and sumptuous at all times, on this twofold task, so magnificent, the hearts of ye Twain are, beyond doubt, set That is why the singer prays unto ye to be ever with him in sweet union

WILSON

You both demand the oblation (Ashwins), you spread out the ceremonials as two weavers (stretch) cloths, (the institutor of the rite) praised you associated together to attain (his desires), like two fortunate days you bestow food

GRIFFITH

This very thing ye Twain hold as your object ye weave your songs as skilful men weave garments

That ye may come united have I waked you Ye spread out food like days of lovely weather



उ॒ष्टरे॑ व॒ फ॒र्व॑रे॒षु श्र॒येथे॑ प्रा॒यो॒गे॒व॒ श्वा॒न्या॒ आ॒सु॒रे॒यः ।

दू॒ते॒व॒ हि श्रो॒ य॒श॒सा॒ जने॑षु मा॒प॒ स्या॒तं म॒हि॒षे॒वा॒व॒पा॒नात् ॥

X-106-2

O Aswins! Ye speed on to a devotee, ■ tamed beasts of the wild would scamper away to their haunts Like draught oxen luxuriating in green pastures, with fond love ye set up your rest under his humble roof, and would never quit it, even as buffaloes can never get away from a puddle Ye deign to home with all who sing your glories, lackeying them like loyal valets, in order to crown their endeavours with success

WILSON

Like two longing oxen (to the pastures), you have recourse to those who fill you (with oblations), you approach like two horses prepared for the fray, employed to bring treasure you are like two (royal) messengers renowned among the people, turn not away (from our oblation) like two buffaloes from the drinking-trough

GRIFFITH

Like two plough-bulls you move along in traces, and seek like eager guests your bidder's banquet

Ye are like glorious envoys mid the people, like bulls, approach the place where you are watered

साकंयुजां शकुन्स्येव पक्षा पश्वेव चित्रा यजुरा गमिष्टम् ।  
अग्निरिव देवयोर्दी दिवांसा परिज्मानेव यजयः पुरुत्रा ॥

X-106-3

To the place of worship ye ever come hand in hand, like the two wings of a bird, or like a pair of yoked bulls, both wonderfully strong and handsome Ye reveal yourselves all resplendent like a blazing fire, to the ardent devotee All-pervading like the sun and moon, most worthy of worship are ye Twain

WILSON

Connected together like the two wings of a bird, you came to the sacrifice like two choice animals, radiant as Agni (at the offering) of the devout (worshipper), like two perambulating priests you celebrate worship in many places

GRIFFITH

Like the two pinions of a bird, connected, like two choice animals, ye have sought our worship

Bright as the fire the votary hath kindled, ye sacrifice in many a spot as roainers

आ॒पी वो॑ अ॒स्मे पि॒तरे॑व पु॒त्रेये॑व रु॒चा नृ॒पती॑व तु॒र्यै ।  
इ॒र्ये॑व पु॒ष्ट्यै कि॒रणे॑व मु॒ज्यै श्रु॒ष्टीवा॑ने॒व ह॒वमा ग॑मिष्टम् ॥

X-106-4

Like our parents and sons are ye most dear unto us Ye shine with splendour like the sun and moon and are to us like benign sovereigns hastening to rescue the panic-stricken, ye provide us with sustenance and nourishment, like a soil rich beyond compare, and gladden our hearts like the rays of the sun and moon (More than all), in response to our prayer, ye race to us like lightning-footed steeds

WILSON

You are kinsmen to us, like parents (to us), like two fierce shining fires, like two princes hastening (to give protection), like two bestowers of food are you for the nourishment (of men), like two luminaries for the enjoyment (of your worshippers), like two quick (horses) you came to our invocation

GRIFFITH

Ye are our kinsmen, like two sons, two fathers, strong in your splendour and like kings for conquest,

Like rays for our enjoyment, Lords to feed us, ye, like quick hearers, have obeyed our calling

वंसेगेव पू॒र्या॑ शि॒म्व्याता॑ मि॒त्रेव॑ ऋ॒ता श॒तरा॑ शार्त॒पन्ता॑ ।  
वाजे॑ वो॒च्चा व॒र्यसा॑ ध॒र्म्येष्ठा॑ मे॒षे वे॒षा संप॒र्या॑ ३ पु॒री॑षा ॥

X-106-5

Like the sun and the moon ye foster our growth, and like bosom friends heighten our happiness Ever anchored in Truth are ye, and are to us repositories of priceless bounties Ye beggar all words of praise In point of might you transcend the mightiest As for your duration, ye are verily eternal like the stars of heaven Withal, ye are, like the goat, satisfied with any food, be it ever so poor, provided it is offered with a full heart

WILSON

You are like two pleasantly moving Well-fed (hulls), like Mitra and Varuna, the two bestowers of felicity, voracious, possessors of infinite wealth, happy, like two horses plump with fodder, abiding in the firmament, like two rams (are you) to be nourished with sacrificial food, to be cherished with oblations

GRIFFITH

(Shying away from verses 5-8, Griffith says "I do not attempt the hopeless task of translating stanzas 5, 6, 7, 8, in which nearly every word is a difficult riddle")

सृ॒ण्ये'व ज॒र्मेरी' तु॒र्फरी'तू नैतो॒शेव' तु॒र्फरी' प॒र्फरीका' ।  
 उ॒द॒न्यजे॒व जे॒र्मना मदे॒रू ता मे' ज॒राय्व॒जरं' म॒रायु' ।

X-106-6

O Aswins! Ye create the Universe and ye sustain and destroy it. Dispensers are ye of rewards and punishments Enmeshing the world in nescience and bondage, ye bestow upon it the prize of Light and Liberation Flawless and stainless are ye like a gem just out of the ocean (*lit* the waters), and are Bliss Infinite Make this ageing and mortal body ageless and immortal—we supplicate

WILSON

You are like two mad elephants bending their forequarters and smiting the foe, like the two sons of Nitosha destroying (foes), and cherishing (friends), you are as bright as two water-born (jewels), do you, who are victorious, (render) my decaying mortal body free from decay

प॒त्रेव॒ च॒र्च॑रं॒ जार॑ म॒रायु॑ क्ष॒त्रेवा॒र्ये॑षु त॒र्तरी॑य उ॒ग्रा ।  
 ऋ॒न् ना॑प॒त्वर॑म॒त्रा ख॒रज्जु॑र्वा॒युर्न॑ प॒र्फर॑त्क्षयद्र॒यीणा॑म्

X-106-7

All-conquering Aswins! Founts of inexhaustible energy that ye are, ye alone can take this body to the final goal beyond the three ends of life—this body subject to decay and death, evanescent as bubbles of foam, my errant gad-about mind which races with the terrific speed of a gale to settle on the pomps and vanities of this world, is obdurately reluctant to come to ye, for all that ye are omniscient and all-purifying

WILSON

Fierce (Ashwins) like two powerful (heroes), you enable this moving, perishable mortal (frame) to cross over to the objects (of its desunation) as over water, extremely strong, like the Ribhus, your chariot attained its desunation swift as the wind, it pervaded (everywhere), it dispensed riches

घ॒र्मे॒व॒ म॒धु॒ ज॒ठरे॑ स॒ने॒रू॒ भ॒गे॑वि॒ता तु॒र्फ॒री फा॒रि॒वार॑म् ।

प॒त॒रे॒व॑ च॒च॒रा च॒न्द्र॒नि॑ णि॒ड्म॒न॑ऋ॒द्धा म॒न॒न्या॑ न॒ ज॒ग्मी॑ ॥

X-106-8

Most resplendent Gods! Ye provide our stomachs with sweetest food Although armed with the mightiest weapons (to destroy enemies) Ye mount guard over our good fortunes and make us happy, Ye cleanse our minds, giving them the crystal line sheen of the moon Most adorable Twain! Do not wing away from us like migrant birds

WILSON

With your bellies full of the *Soma*, like two saucepans, preservers of wealth, destroyers of enemies (you are), armed with hatchets, moving like two flying (birds) with forms like the moon, attaining success through the mind, like two laudable beings, (you are) approaching the sacrifice

आरङ्गरेव मध्येरयेथे सारधेव गवि<sup>१</sup> नीचीनवारे ।

कीनारे<sup>२</sup>व स्वेदमासिष्विदना क्षामे<sup>३</sup>वोर्जा स्यवसात्स<sup>४</sup>चेथे ॥

X-106-10

As thunder-clouds shower sweet water, as bees store honey, ye store (sweet) milk in an animal like the cow While ye make famishing folk toil with the sweat of their brow like hard-handed peasants, ye bless them, too, with opulence ushering in food and plenty

WILSON

Like two loud-sounding (clouds), you send forth the sweet (rain), like two bees (you deposit milk) in (the udder of) the cow which has its opening turned downwards, like two labourers you are dripping with perspiration, like a tired cow eating sweet herbage, you attend the sacrifice

GRIFFITH

Like toiling bees ye bring to us your honey, as bees into the hide that opens downward

(Griffith observes "I cannot translate intelligibly the second line")

(On *hide* he notes 'the honeycomb is compared to a waterskin inverted')



वृहन्ते'व गम्भरे'षु प्रतिष्ठां पादे'व गाधं तर्तते विदायः ।

कर्णे'व शासुर्नु हि स्मरार्थोऽश्वे'व नो मजत चित्रमर्णः ॥

X-106-9

Omnipotent Gods! Howsoever formidable the odds, ye stand firm and unshaken, like the feet of a champion swimmer in shallow water, ye harken to the prayers of a devotee as often as your ears hear them. Deign to accept thus our soul-ravishing adoration as if ye were ourselves.

WILSON

Like two big (men) in deep waters you find a resting place, like two feet crossing a ford you find (the fording-place), like two ears you recognize (the voice) of the reciter of your praises, like two shoulders (supporting the sacrifice), come to our desirable rite.

आरङ्गरेव मध्येरयेधे सारधेव गवि नीचीनचारे ।

कीनारेव स्वेदमासिष्विदना क्षामेवोर्जा सयवसात्सचेधे ॥

X-106-10

As thunder-clouds shower sweet water, as bees store honey, ye store (sweet) milk in an animal like the cow While ye make famishing folk toil with the sweat of their brow like hard-handed peasants, ye bless them, too, with opulence ushering in food and plenty

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(Griffith observes 'I cannot translate intelligibly the second line.')

(On *hide* he notes 'the honeycomb is compared to a waterskin inverted')

ऋ॒ध्या॒न॒ स्तो॒मं॑ स॒नु॒याम॒ वा॒ज॒सा नो॒ म॒न्त्रं॑ स॒रथे॒होष॑ यातम् ।  
 य॒शो व॒ एक॒ मधु॒ गो॒ध्वन्त॑स॒ भू॒तांशो॑ अ॒धि॒नोः का॒र्म॒म॒प्राः ॥

X-106-11

May we, O Aswins, laud ye more and more, and more fervently too, may we grow from strength to strength, journeying as we do in the same chariot (the body), as ye may our magnificats find welcome acceptance By the Grace of Aswins, the *Jeeva*, looked upon as the *amsa* of God, has realized his inmost longing—the longing for the honeyed Wisdom enshrined in the Vedas, as easy of assimilation as the milk of the cow, so rich and sweet

WILSON

May we increase our praise, (O Ashwins), may we offer you food, come hither in the same chariot to our worship, and accept the sweet food prepared from within the cows Bhutamsha has fulfilled the desires of the learned

GRIFITH

May we increase the laud and gain us vigour come to our song, ye whom one chariot carries

Filled be our line with ripened meath like glory Bhutamsha hath fulfilled the Aswins' longing

न वा उ देवाः क्षुधामिद्वधं ददुस्ताशितमुप गच्छन्ति मृत्यवः  
 उतो रयिः पृणतो नोप दस्यत्युतापृणन्मर्दितारं न विन्दते ॥

X-117-1

In ordaining hunger God has not ordained death itself; death and distress haunt the man who feasts (when others die of starvation). While the riches of a charitable man do not in the least wane, he who giveth not finds none to make him happy.

WILSON:

The gods have not assigned hunger as (the cause of) death, for deaths approach the man who has eaten, the riches of one who gives do not diminish, he who gives not finds no consoler

GRIFFITH,

The gods have not ordained hunger to be our death. even to the well-fed man comes death in varied shape.

The riches of the liberal never waste away, while he who will not give finds none to comfort him.

MUM:

The gods have not ordained that we  
 Should die of want: the lean and weak  
 Are not death's only prey; the sleek  
 Themselves must soon his victims be.

य आ॒ध्राय॑ च॒क॒मा॒नाय॑ वि॒त्वोऽन्न॑वा॒न्त्सन्न॑फि॒तायो॑प॒ज॒मुपे॑ ।  
 स्थि॒रं म॒नः कृ॒णु॒ते से॒र्वते॑ पु॒रोतो॑ चि॒त्स म॑र्दि॒तारं॑ न वि॑न्दते ॥

X-117-2

A man, who, though copiously stocked with food, is as heartless as to enjoy sumptuous fare in the presence of a poverty-stricken, starving skeleton, begging for food at his door, will not have a single soul (in the whole world) to sympathise with him

WILSON

He who, possessed of food, hardens his heart against the feeble man craving nourishment, against the sufferer coming to him (for help), and pursues (his own enjoyment even) before him, that man finds no consoler

GRIFFITH

The man with food in store who, when the needy comes in miserable case begging for bread to eat,

Hardens his heart against him—even when of old he did him service—finds not one to comfort him

MUIR

The man endowed with ample pelf,  
 Who steels his heart, in selfish mood,  
 Against the poor who sue for food,  
 Shall no consoler find himself \*

स इद्भोजो यो गृहवे ददात्यन्नक्रमाय चरते कुशाय ।  
 अरमस्मै भवति यामहता उतापरीपु कृणुते सखायम् ॥

X-117-3

He alone has feasted, who gives food to a feeble suppliant that has padded all the way to his place for food. All help will surely be there for him (the giver) in his dire need, then and always he finds friends.

WILSON.

He is liberal who gives to the suppliant desiring food, wandering about distressed, to him there ■ an ample recompense and he contracts friendship with his adversaries.

GRIFFITH

Bounteous is he who gives unto the beggar who comes to him in want of food and feeble.

Success attends him in the shout of battle. He makes a friend of him in future troubles.

न स सखा यो न ददाति सख्ये' सचाभुवे सचमानाय पित्वः ।  
 अपास्मात्त्रेयाच्च तदोको' अस्ति पृणन्तमन्यमरणं चिदिच्छेत् ॥

X-117-4

He is no friend who does not offer food to his friends, his relations, and his servants. One should forthwith depart from his place—that is no home at all—and seek shelter in another man who is unfailingly generous.

WILSON

He is not a friend who gives not food to a friend, to an associate, to a companion, let him turn away from him, that is not a (fitting) dwelling; let him seek another more liberal lord.

GRIFFITH.

No friend is he who to his friend and comrade who comes imploring food, will offer nothing

Let him depart—no home is that to rest in—, rather seek a stranger to support him.

MUIR:

No friend is he who coldly spurns  
 Away his needy friend forlorn,  
 He thus repulsed, in wrath and scorn  
 To some more liberal stranger turns.

## MUIR

Relieve the poor while yet ye may,  
Down future time's long vista look,  
And try to read that darkling book,  
Your riches soon may flit away  
*Ye cannot trust their fickle grace*  
As chariot wheels in ceaseless round  
Now upward turn, now touch the ground,  
So riches ever change their place



मोघमन्नं विन्दते अग्रचेताः सत्यं ब्रवीमि वध इत्स तस्य ।  
 नार्यमणं पुष्यति नो सखायं केवलाघो भवति केवलादी ॥

X-117-6

A man, inhumane and ungenerous, in vain, overstocks himself with provisions In very truth, this will be the death of him, a man who does not feed his elders and companions, but feasts all alone, is Sin incarnate

WILSON

The inhospitable man acquires food in vain I speak the truth—it verily is his death He cherishes not Aryaman nor a friend, he who eats alone is nothing but a sinner

GRIFFITH

The foolish man wins food with fruitless labour That food—I speak the truth—shall be his ruin  
 He feeds no trusty friend no man to love him All guilt is he who eats with no partaker

MUIR

The man whose friend receives no share  
 Of all his good, himself destroys  
 Who thus alone his food enjoys  
 His sin alone shall also bear

कृ॒पन्नि॒त्फल॒ आ॒शि॒तं कृ॒णोति॒ यन्न॒ध्वा॒नम॒प॒ वृ॒द्धे च॒रि॒त्रैः ।  
 व॒द॒न्त्र॒ह्यव॑द॒तो व॒नी॒यान्पृ॒णन्ना॒पिर॒ष्ट॒णन्त॒मभि॒ ष्यात् ॥

X-117-7

The ploughshare that furrows the field produces a bumper crop an itinerant ascetic brings people to the path of absolute bliss by his holy and austere life a man all generous even to the uncharitable is the truest kinsman worthy of all honour is the Brahmana who imparts knowledge to one that has no word of praise for him

WILSON

The ploughshare furrowing (the field) provides food (for the ploughman), a man travelling along a road acquires (wealth for his master) by his movements, a Brahman expounding the (Veda) is better than one not expounding it, (so) let the man who gives become a kinsman to the man who gives not

GRIFFITH

The ploughshare ploughing makes the food that feeds us, and with its feet cuts through the path it follows

Better the speaker than the silent Brahman the liberal friend outvalues him that gives not

GLADNER, KAIGI ROTH

The plough brings plenty when the soil it furrows,  
 Who moves his feet accomplishes his journey,  
 Speech benefits a Brahman more than silence,  
 A friend who gives is better than a niggard

एकपाद्भूयो द्विपदो वि चक्रमे द्विपात्रिपादमभ्येति पश्चात् ।  
 चतुष्पादेति द्विपदामभिस्वरे सम्पश्यन्पङ्क्तिरुपतिष्ठमानः ॥

X-117-8

By and large, a man of modest means seeks the help of one having double his: one twice rich waits on a man thrice rich. a thrice rich man in his turn is after one who has quadruple wealth: this last, with the sinking voice of one who is twice rich, hangs upon a man of quintuple fortune. knowing this well one must be humble.

WILSON:

He who has but one foot takes a longer time on a journey than he who has two; he who has two feet comes after him who has three; he who has four feet comes up overtaking the two-footed (and three-footed), beholding their traces as he passes by

GRIFFITH:

He with one foot hath far outrun the biped, and the two-footed catches the three-footed:

Four-footed creatures come when bipeds call them, and stand and look where five are met together.

हिरण्यगर्भः समवर्तताग्रे भूतस्य जातः पतिरेक आसीत् ।  
 स दाधार पृथिवीं चामुतेमां कस्मै देवाय हविर्पा विधेम ॥

X-121-1

The Supreme Being, of whom was born the Golden Egg (this Cosmos), who, through His inherent Greatness is the sole Sovereign of Existence, and upholdeth Heaven and Earth, was there in all His plenitude even before Creation to what God other than Him could we at all offer our worship?

WILSON

Hiranyagarbha was present at the beginning, when born, he was the sole lord of created beings, he upheld this earth and heaven—let us offer worship with an oblation to the divine KA

GRIFFITH

In the beginning rose Hiranyagarbha, born Only Lord of all created beings,

He fixed and holdeth up this earth and heaven What God shall we adore with our oblation?

GELDNER, KAEGI, ROTH:

In the beginning rose Hiranyagarbha,

Born as the only lord of all existence.

This earth he settled firm and heaven established:

What god shall we adore with our oblations?

समौ चिद्धस्तौ न समं विविष्टः सम्मातरौ चित्रं समं दुहति ।  
यमयोश्चित्रं समा वीर्याणि ज्ञाती चित्सन्तौ न समं पृणीतः ॥

X-117-9

No two hands, though ~~so~~ alike, put in the same amount of work no two cows—calving simultaneously, yield the same milk even twins are not on all fours with one another no two relatives are equally liberal

WILSON

The two hands are alike, but they do not perform the same work, two cows calving at the same time do not yield the same milk, two twins have not the same strength, two persons of the same family do not display equal liberality

GRIFFITH

The hands are both alike their labour differs The yield of sister nuth knee is unequal

Twins ever differ in their strength and vigour Two, even kinsmen, differ in their bounty,

हिरण्यगर्भः समवर्तताग्रे' मृतस्य जातः पतिरेकं यासीत् ।  
 स दोधार पृथि॒वीं धामु॒तेमां कस्मै॑ दे॒वाय॑ ह॒विषा॑ विधेम ॥

X-121-1

The Supreme Being, of whom was born the Golden Egg (this Cosmos), who, through His inherent Greatness is the sole Sovereign of Existence, and upholdeth Heaven and Earth, was there in all His plenitude even before Creation to what God other than Him could we at all offer our worship?

WILSON:

Hiranyagarbha was present at the beginning, when born, he was the sole lord of created beings, he upheld this earth and heaven—let us offer worship with an oblation to the divine KA.

GRIFFITH.

In the beginning rose Hiranyagarbha, born Only Lord of all created beings,

He fixed and holdeth up this earth and heaven What God shall we adore with our oblation?

GELDNER, KÆGI, ROTH.

In the beginning rose Hiranyagarbha,

Born as the only lord of all existence.

This earth he settled firm and heaven established:

What god shall we adore with our oblations?

THOMAS

As the Golden Germ he arose in the beginning, when born  
he was the one Lord of the existent. He supported the earth and  
this heaven. What God with our oblation shall we worship?

य आत्मादा वैलदा यस्य विश्वं उपासते ग्रशिष यस्य देवाः ।  
 यस्य च्छायामृतं यस्य मृत्युः कस्मै देवाय हविषा विधेम ॥

X-121-2

The Supreme God is verily He, who dowers us with body and mind, who breathes strength into all, whose commandments are awaited with tense suspense by all gods, to whom all mortal and immortal beings are like mere reflections (mere shadows) to what God other than Him could we at all offer our worship?

WILSON:

(To him) who is the giver of soul, the giver of strength, whose commands all (beings), even the gods, obey, whose shadow is immortality, whose (shadow) is death,—let us offer worship with an oblation to the divine KA

GRIFFITH.

Giver of vital breath, of power and vigour, he whose commandments all the Gods acknowledge

The Lord of death, whose shade is life immortal What God shall we adore with our oblation?

GELDNER, KAEGI, ROTH

Who gives us breath, who gives us strength, whose bidding  
 All creatures must obey, the bright gods even,  
 Whose shade is death, whose shadow life immortal  
 What god shall we adore with our oblations?



यः प्रा॒णतो॑ नि॒मि॒षतो॑ म॒हि॒त्वैक॑ इ॒द्रा॒जा ज॑ग॒तो च॒मूर्व॑ ।

य ई॒शे॑ अ॒स्य द्वि॒पद॑श्चतु॒पदः॑ कस्मै॑ दे॒वाय॑ ह॒विषा॑ वि॒धेम ॥

X-121-3

The Supreme God is verily He, who by His infinite might is the only Protector of this world, be it awake or asleep, who is the Mover of all beings—biped or quadruped: to what God other than Him could we at all offer our worship?

WILSON:

(To him) who, by his greatness, has verily become the sole king of the breathing and seeing world, who rules over the aggregate of two-footed and four-footed beings,—let us offer worship with an oblation to the divine KA

THOMAS.

He who gives breath, who gives strength, whose command  
all the Gods wait upon, whose shadow is *immortality*, is death—  
what God with our oblation shall we worship?

यः प्राणतो निमिषतो महित्वैक इद्राजा जगतो बभूव ।  
 य ईशे' अस्य द्विपदश्चतुष्पदः कस्मै' देवाय हविषा निधेम ॥

X-121-3

The Supreme God is verily He, who by His infinite might is the only Protector of this world, be it awake or asleep, who is the Mover of all beings—biped or quadruped—to what God other than Him could we at all offer our worship?

WILSON

(To him) who, by his greatness, has verily become the sole king of the breathing and seeing world, who rules over the aggregate of two-footed and four-footed beings,—let us offer worship with an oblation to the divine *Kā*

GRIFFITH

Who by his grandeur hath become Sole Ruler of all the moving world that breathes and slumbers.

He who is Lord of men and Lord of cattle What God shall we adore with our oblation?

GILDER, KAIGI, ROTH

Who by his might alone became the monarch  
 Of all that breathes, of all that wakes or slumbers,  
 Of all, both man and beast, the lord eternal  
 What god shall we adore with our oblations?

THOMAS

Who through his greatness over that which breathes and closes  
the eyes is only king of the world, who is Lord of the two-footed  
and four-footed—what God with our oblation shall we worship?

THOMAS:

Whose are the snowy mountains through his greatness, whose,  
as they say, are the ocean and the Rasa, whose are the regions,  
Whose the arms—what God With our oblation shall we worship?

येन द्यौरग्रा पृथिवी च दृढहा येन स्वः स्तमित येन नार्कः ।  
 यो अन्तरिक्षे रजसो विमानः कस्मै देवाय हविषा विधेम ॥

X-121-5

He indeed, is the Sole Sovereign of existence,—by whom the earth and heavens with their awesome majesty and grandeur, stand firm, by whom the firmament is supported, and the Realm of Unmingled Bliss is what it is, who creates worlds even in the sky's void to what God other than Him could we at all offer our worship?

WILSON

By whom the sky was made profound and the earth solid, by whom heaven and the solar sphere were fixed, who was the measure of the water in the firmament—let us offer worship with an oblation to the divine KA

GRIFFITH

By him the heavens are strong and earth is steadfast, by him light's realm and sky-vault are supported

By him the regions in mid-air are measured What God shall we adore with our oblation?

GELDNER, KAEGI, ROTH

Who made the heavens bright, the earth enduring,  
 Who fixed the firmament, the heaven of heavens,  
 Who measured out the air's extended spaces,  
 What god shall we adore with our oblations?

THOMAS

Through whom the mighty heaven and the earth have been fixed, through whom the sun has been established, through whom the firmament, who in the middle sky measures out the air—what God with our oblation shall we worship?

यं क॒न्द॒सी अ॒व॒सा तस्त॒भाने अ॒भ्यैक्षे'तां म॒न॒सा रे॒ज॒माने ।  
 यत्रा॒धि सूर॒ उदि॑तो वि॒भाति॒ कस्मै॑ दे॒वाय॑ ह॒विषा॑ विधेम ॥

X-121-6

Sustained by His Grace, Heaven and earth, athrill with wonderment, with awesome reverence behold His unfathomable Greatness; through His might and subject to Him, the sun upsprings and shines with splendour to what God other than Him could we at all offer worship?

WILSON:

Whom heaven and earth established by his protection, and shining brightly, regarded with their mind, in whom the risen sun shines forth—let us offer worship with an oblation to the divine KA.

GRIFFITH:

To him, supported by his help, two armies embattled look  
 while trembling in their spirit,

When over them the risen Sun is shining,  
 What God shall we adore with our oblation?

GILDYER, KALGI, ROTH:

To whom with trembling mind the two great armies  
 Look up, by his eternal will supported;  
 On whom the sun sheds brightness in its rising:  
 What god shall we adore with our oblations?



THOMAS:

To whom the two realms (heaven and earth), sustained by his aid, looked up, trembling in spirit, over whom the risen sun shines—what God with our oblation shall we worship?

आपो' ह यद् वृहतीर्विश्वमायुनार्भं दधाना जनयन्तीरग्निम् ।  
ततो' देवानां समवर्ततासुरेकः कस्मै' देवाय हविषा विधेम ॥

X-121-7

The vast, all-pervasive, primeval waters bore Him, the First Cause of the Universe, then of Him, that great god of gods (or the Life-Breath of all the gods) Prana, was born to what God other than Him could we at all offer our worship?

WILSON:

When the vast waters overspread the universe containing the germ and giving birth to Agni, then was produced the one breath of the gods,—let us offer worship with an oblation to the divine KA.

GRIFFITH:

What time the mighty waters came, containing the universal germ, producing Agni

Thence sprang the Gods' one spirit into being What God shall we adore with our oblation ?

THOMAS:

When the great waters came, bearing all as the Germ, and generating fire (Agni), then arose the one life-spirit of the Gods—what God with our oblation shall we worship?

यश्चिदापो<sup>१</sup> महिना पर्यपश्यदक्ष दधाना जनयन्तीर्यज्ञम् ।  
 यो देवेष्वधि<sup>१</sup> देव एक आसीत्कस्मै<sup>१</sup> देवाय हविषा विधेम ॥

X-121-8

He verily is the Sole Sovereign of existence, who through His infinite greatness surveys the primeval (all-creative) waters enwombing the most adorable, omniscient Brahma, who is God of gods supreme above them to what God other than Him could we at all offer our worship?

WILSON

He who by his might beheld the waters all round containing the creative power and giving birth to sacrifice, he who among the gods was the one supreme god,—let us offer worship with an oblation to the divine KA

GRIFFITH

He in his might surveyed the floods containing productive force and generating Worship

He is the God of gods, and none beside him What God shall we adore with our oblation?

THOMAS

Who through his greatness beheld the waters, that bore power and generated the sacrifice, who was the one God above the Gods—what God with our oblation shall we worship?

मा नो हिंसीज्जनिता यः पृथिव्या यो वा दिवं सत्यधर्मा जजान ।  
 यश्चापश्चन्द्रा वृहतीर्जजान कस्मै देवाय हविषा विधेम ॥

X-121-9

May He shield us from all ills, whose laws are infallible, immutable and eternal, who made Heaven and Earth, who revealed to us the endless path of noble action—the path so lovely and sweet: to what God other than Him, could we at all offer our worship?

WILSON:

May he do us no harm who is the parent of the earth, or who the unerring support (of the world) begat the heaven, and who generated the vast and delightful waters,—let us worship with an oblation the divine KA.

GRIFFITH:

Ne'er may he harm us who is earth's Begetter, nor he whose laws are sure, the heaven's Creator.

He who brought forth the great and lucid waters: What God shall we adore with our oblation?

THOMAS:

May he not injure us, who is the generator of the earth, he of true ordinances, who produced the heaven, who produced the shining mighty waters.

प्रजा॑पते न त्वदे॒तान्य॒न्यो विश्वा॑ जा॒तानि॒ परि॒ ता च॑भूव ।  
यत्का॑मास्ते जुहु॒मस्तद्यो॑ अस्तु व॒यं स्या॑म॒ पत॑यो रथि॒णाम् ॥

X-12

Lord of all beings (Prajapati)! None there is, but Thee, 'can in every way protect all beings born may all the chens longings, all the ardent aspirations for which we invoke T be crowned with fruition! May we be the masters of all the life

WILSON

No other than thou, Prajapati, hast (sic) given existence to beings, may that object of our desires for which we sacrifice thee be ours, may we be the possessors of riches

GRIFFITH

Prajapati! thou only comprehendest all these created things and none beside thee

Grant us our hearts' desire when we invoke thee may have store of riches in possession

THOMAS

O Prajapati, none other than thou has encompassed all the created things May that for which we desiring have invoked thee be ours May we become lords of wealth

MACMONELL

There was not the non-existent nor the existent then, there  
was not the air nor the heaven which is beyond What did it  
contain? Where? In whose protection? Was there water, un-  
fathomable profound?

MUIR

There then was neither Aught nor Nought, no  
air nor sky beyond  
What covered all? Where rested all?  
*In watery gulf profound?*

न मृत्युरासीदमृतं न तर्हि न रात्र्या अहं आसीत्प्रकेतः ।

आनीदवातं स्वधया तदेकं तस्माद्भान्यन्न परः किं चनास ॥

X-129-2

Then was neither death nor immortality; nor was there demarcation between night and day. That One alone breathed in its own bliss and by its own power, in spite of absolute vacuum *That* alone was, naught else

WILSON:

Death was not nor at that period immortality, there was no indication of day or night; That One, unbreathed upon breathed of his own strength, other than That there was nothing else whatever.

GRIFFITH:

Death was not then, nor was there aught immortal: no sign was there, the day's and night's divider.

That One Thing, breathless, breathed by its own nature: apart from it was nothing whatsoever.

GELDNER, KAEGI, ROTH:

Then neither death nor deathlessness existed;  
Of day and night there was yet no distinction.  
Alone that One breathed calmly, self-supported,  
Other than It was none, nor aught above It

MACDONELL

There was not death nor immortality then There was not the  
beacon of night, nor of day That one breathed, windless, by its  
own power Other than that there was not anything beyond

MUIR

Nor death was there nor deathlessness, nor change of night and  
day

That One breathed calmly self-sustained nor else beyond It  
lay



तम॑ आसीत्तम॑सा गु॒ळ्ढम॑ग्रेऽप्र॒केतं॑ स॒लिलं॑ सर्व॑मा इ॒दम् ।  
 तु॒च्छे॒येना॒भ्वपि॑हेतुं॒ यदासीत्तप॑सस्तन्मा॒हिना॒जाय॑तैक॑म् ॥

X-129-3

In the beginning, there was only Darkness, and enveloped by it, there was everywhere that strange supraterrrestrial water, whatever existed then was encompassed by Prakriti (*tiiccha*), then was born that One by virtue of mere thought (*Samkalpa*)

WILSON

There was darkness covered by darkness in the beginning, all this (world) was undistinguishable water, that empty united (world) which was covered by a mere nothing, was produced by the power of austerity

GRIFFITH

Darkness there was at first concealed in darkness this All was indiscriminated chaos

All that existed then was void and formless by the great power of Warmth was born that Unit

GELDNER, KAEGL, ROTH

Darkness there was at first in darkness hidden,  
 This universe was undistinguished water  
 That which in void and emptiness lay hidden  
 Alone by power of fervour was developed

MACDONELL

Darkness was in the beginning hidden by darkness, undistinguishable, this all was water That which, coming into being, was covered with the void, that One arose through the power of heat

MUIR

Gloom hid in gloom existed first—one sea eluding view  
That One, a void in chaos wrapt, by inward fervour grew

कामस्तदग्रे समवर्तताधि मनसो रेतः प्रथमं यदासीत् ।  
 सतो बन्धुमसंति निरविन्दन्द्दि प्रतीष्या कवयो मनीषा ॥

X-129-4

Then the first thing that arose was Desire, the primal creative energy of the mind, its essential constituent. It is through this energy that seers, after long search in the inmost chamber of their hearts, discovered the Paramatman, the Supreme Spirit that binds and integrates *Sat* and *Asat* (into this universe)

WILSON

In the beginning there was desire, which was the first seed of mind, sages having meditated in their hearts have discovered by their wisdom the connection of the existing with the non-existing

GRIFFITH

Thereafter rose Desire in the beginning, Desire, the primal seed and germ of Spirit

Sages who searched with their heart's thought discovered the existent's kinship with the non-existent

GELDNER, KAEGI, ROTH

Then for the first time there arose desire,  
 Which was the primal germ of mind, within it  
 And sages, searching in their heart, discovered  
 In Nothing the connecting bond of Being

## MACDONELL

Desire in the beginning came upon that, (desire) that was the first seed of the mind Sages seeking in their hearts with wisdom found out the bond of the existent in the non-existent

## EDGERTON

Desire (creative, or perhaps sacrificial impulse) arose then in the beginning, which was the seed of thought The causal connection (*Bandhu*) of the existent, sages found in the non-existent, searching with devotion in their hearts

## MUIR

Within It first arose desire, the primal germ of mind,  
Which nothing with existence links, as sages searching find

तिर॒श्चीनो॒ वि॒र्ततो॒ रश्मिरे॑'पाम॒धः स्वि॑दासी॒द्दु॒परि॑ स्विदासी॒द् ।  
 रे॒तो॒वा आ॑सन्महि॒मानं॑ आ॒सन्त्स्व॒धा अ॒वस्ता॒त्प्रय॑तिः प्र॒स्तात् ॥

X-129-5

This Self-effulgent Spirit Supreme is everywhere, in and through this Universe, beneath it and above it, all those who fixed this Primal Cause (this *Causa causans*) in their minds (i.e. meditated upon it) became great. To them happiness was of little consequence, but most paramount was a life of earnest striving and lofty purity.

WILSON.

Their ray was stretched out, whether across, or below or above; (some) were shedders of seed, (others) were mighty, food was inferior, the eater was superior.

GRIFFITH:

Transversely was their severing line extended, what was above it then, and what below it?

There were begetters, there were mighty forces, free action here and energy up yonder.

GELDNER, KAEGI, ROTH:

And straight across their cord was then extended:

What then was there above? or what beneath it?

Life-giving principles and powers existed;

Below the origin,—the striving upward.

MACDONELL:

Their cord was extended across: was there below or was there above? There were impregnators, there were powers; there was energy below, there was impulse above

MUIR.

The kindling ray that shot across the dark and drear abyss,—  
Was it beneath? Or high aloft? What bard can answer this?  
There fecundating powers were found, and mighty forces  
    strove,  
A self-supporting mass beneath, and energy above.

EDGERTON.

Straight across was the (dividing) cord of them (i.e. of the following), below what was there? above what was there? Seed-bearers (male forces) there were, strengths (female forces) there were, (female) innate power below, (male) impellent force above.

को अ॒द्वा वे॒दं क॒ इह॒ प्र वो॑च॒त्कुत॒ आ॒न॒ता कु॒न इ॒यं वि॒सृष्टिः॑ ।  
 अ॒र्वाग्दे॒वा अ॒स्य वि॒सर्ज॑ने॒नाथा॒ को वे॒दं यत् आ॒व॒भूव॑ ॥

X-129-6

Who in this world verily knows the whole Truth? Whence this Creation came into existence, who can tell? And what for? Divine beings were born long after the creation of this universe From whom, and by whom it came to be what it is—who then can have anything like direct knowledge thereof?

WILSON

Who really knows? Who in this world may declare it? Whence was this creation, whence was it engendered? The gods (were) subsequent to the (world's) creation, so who knows whence it arose?

GRIFFITH

Who verily knows and who can declare it, whence it was born and whence comes this creation?

The Gods are later than the world's production Who knows then whence it first came into being?

GELDNER, KAEGI, ROTH

Who is it knows? Who here can tell us surely  
 From what and how this universe has arisen?  
 And whether not till after it the gods lived?  
 Who then can know from what it has arisen?

## MACDONELL

Who knows truly? Who shall here declare, whence it has been produced, whence is this creation? By the creation of this (universe) the gods (come) afterwards who then knows whence it has arisen?

## MUIR

Who knows, who ex hath told from whence this vast creation rose?

No gods had then been born who then can e'er the truth disclose?

## EDGERTON

Who truly knows? who shall here proclaim it?

Whence they were produced, whence the creation?

The gods (arose) on this side (later by the creation of this empiric world, to which the gods belong), then who knows whence it came into being?



इ॒यं त्रि॑सृ॒ष्टि॒र्यत॑ आ॒न॒मू॒य॒ यदि॑ वा द॒धे यदि॑ वा न ।  
 यो अ॒स्या॒र्ध्वक्षः॑ पर॒मे व्यो॑म॒न्त्सो अ॒द्भ॒ वे॒द॒ यदि॑ वा न वे॒द ॥

X-129-7

He, from whom and by whom this universe came into being, can alone preserve or destroy it as He pleases. The great god presiding over this universe (i.e. the wisest and the highest of the *Jeevas*) knows, or perhaps even he knows not, about this Supreme All-pervading Being.

WILSON

He from whom this creation arose, he may uphold it, or he may not (no one else can), he who is its superintendent in the highest heaven, he assuredly knows, or if he knows not (no one else does).

GRIFFITH

He, the first origin of this creation, whether he formed it all or did not form it,

Whose eye controls this world in highest heaven, he verily knows it, or perhaps he knows not.

(G's Note. The hymn has been translated by Colebrooke, *Miscellaneous Essays* I pp 33-34, by Dr Muir, *O S Texts*, V 356, 357, by the authors of the *Seibenzig Lieder*, and by Mr Wallis, *Cosmology of the Rigveda*, pp 59 ff. The latest of the many Commentators on this hymn are Professor Whitney in the *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, Vol xi, pp 1x and Dr Scherman, *Philosophische Hymnen aus der Rig- und Atharva-veda Samhita*, 1887'-Wallis)

GELDNER, KAEGI, ROTH:

The source from which this universe has arisen  
And whether it was made, or uncreated,  
He only knows, who from the highest heaven  
Rules, the all-seeing Lord,—or does not He know?

MACDONELL

Whence this creation has arisen, whether he founded it or  
did not he who in the highest heaven is its surveyor, he only  
knows or else he knows not

MUIR

Whence sprang this world, and whether framed by hand divine  
or no,  
Its lord in heaven alone can tell,—if even he can show

EDGERTON

Thus creation whence it came into being, whether it was  
established or whether not—he who is its overseer in the highest  
heaven, he verily knows, or perchance, he knows not

संसमिद्युवसे वृषजग्ने विश्वान्यर्य आ ।  
इच्छस्पदे समिध्यसे स नो वसून्वा भर ॥

X-191-1

Supreme God, our Guide Eternal, Showerer of choicest bounties, all beings on the surface of this earth Thou hast created so marvellously alike, and hast brought them together in close bond So it is that Thou dost emerge into the highlight of our consciousness as the one Master Architect Rain on us all, blessings unnumbered.

*Note.* This is the prayer of sage Samvanana, so named, perhaps because of his having brought about a deep sense of unity, brotherliness and solidarity among all people.

WILSON:

Agni, showerer (of benefits), thou who art the lord, thou verily combinest with all creatures, thou art kindled upon the footmark of Ila (the altar); bring unto us riches.

GRIFFITH:

Thou, mighty Agni, gatherest up all that is precious for thy friend.

Bring us all treasures as thou art enkindled in libation's place.

सङ्गच्छ्वं सं वदध्वं सं वो मनांसि जानताम् ।  
 देवा भागं यया पूर्वे सज्जानाना उपासते ॥

X-191-2

Assemble for a common purpose, confer together with open minds and hearts, pool your thoughts for integrated wisdom; for, behold, the great gods themselves have come to enjoy their high eminence (*lit* their fortune) because of their unity.

WILSON

Meet together, talk together, let your minds apprehend alike, in like manner as the ancient gods concurring accepted their portion of the sacrifice

GRIFITH

Assemble, speak together, let your minds be all of one accord,  
 As ancient gods unanimous sit down to their appointed share.

समानो मन्त्रः समितिः समानी समानं मनः सह चित्तमे'षाम् ।  
 समानं मन्त्रमभि मन्त्रये वः समानेन वो हविषा जुहोमि ॥

X-191-3

May our prayer be one and the same; may we belong to one confraternity; may our minds move in accord; may our hearts work in unison for one supreme goal. Let us be inspired by a common ideal; let us worship Thee with this offering of harmony and consentancity.

WILSON:

Common be the prayer of these (assembled worshippers), common be the acquirement, common the purpose, associated be the desire. I repeat for you a common prayer, I offer for you with a common oblation.

GRIFFITH:

The place is common, common the assembly, common the mind, so be their thought united.

A common purpose do I lay before you, and worship with your general oblation.

स॒मानी॒ व॒ आ॒कू॒तिः स॒माना॒ हृद॑यानि वः ।  
 स॒मान॑मे॒स्तु वो॒ मनो॒ यथा॑ वः सु॒सह॑स॒ति ॥

X-191-4

May the inmost aspirations of you all be perfectly harmonious, may your hearts be in unison, may absolute concord reign in your minds, so that you may be welded into strong fellowship and unity

WILSON

Common, (worshippers), be your intention, common be (the wishes of) your hearts, common be your thoughts, so that there may be thorough union among you.

GRIFFITH

One and the same be your resolve, and be your minds of one accord

United be the thoughts of all that all may happily agree

## APPENDIX

### A SYNOPTIC VIEW OF EUROPEAN SCHOLARSHIP IN THE VIDIC FIELD

Voltaire, in his writings, repeatedly praised the ancient wisdom of the *Brahmanas* which he thought to have discovered in the *Yajur Veda*, brought to his notice from India about the middle of the 18th century. He waxed eloquent whenever he referred to the *Vedas*.

After Voltaire, J. G. Herder took great interest in *Vedic* literature. In 1784, the Asiatic Society was founded in Calcutta for the investigation of Asiatic Antiquities in their widest extent, in the same year J. G. Herder unhesitatingly declared that whatever knowledge Europeans had till then got about the mystic philosophy of Indians, was only modern tradition. He says "For the real Veda of Indians, as well as for the real *Sanskrit* language, we shall probably have long to wait."

Then came Colebrooke. His celebrated essays on the *Vedas* gave a valuable survey of the whole territory of *Vedic* literature, with some scattered quotations from various *Vedic* works, but Colebrooke could not examine all the vast expanse of literature comprised by the name, *Veda*.

About twenty years later, a German scholar, Fredrick Rosen, happened to see the rich collection of *Vedic* manuscripts which had come to London in great part through the efforts of Colebrooke, it was he who first discerned the true worth of this literature, and realised the need of making it accessible to European scholarship.

In 1785, Wilkins's translation of the *Bhagavadgita* appeared in London. In 1789, the celebrated translation of *Sakuntalam* by Sir William Jones, was published in Calcutta. Goethe, the renowned German poet, expressed his high appreciation of *Sakuntalam* in 1792 in immortal lines. A German translation of the play by G. Foster, Mainz and Leipzig, was also brought out in 1791. In 1792, the first printed *Sanskrit* text of *Ritu Samhara* appeared. All this gave a great impetus not only to the study of *Sanskrit* classics but also of the *Vedas*.

In the meantime, a great genius had arisen in France. The history of oriental scholarship contains no higher name than that of Burnouf. Rosen, the contemporary and friend of Raja Ram Mohan Roy, published the first Ashtaka of *Rigveda* with a Latin translation. The Labours of Whitney, Bohlingk, Lassen,

James Princep, Dr Burnell, Dr Thibaut, who discovered ancient Hindu Geometry, and General Cunningham cannot be forgotten

This inaugurated a movement which since then has irresistibly led all Sanskritists to the study of the *Veda*. As early as 1852, the Royal Library of Berlin purchased a rich collection of *Sanskrit* manuscripts, taking full advantage of which A. Weber was able to give a very detailed and valuable survey of the *Vedic* books. His work was supplemented in several points by Max Muller's "History of Ancient Sanskrit Literature", London, 1859. During the two decades before this, through the indefatigable industry of Benfey, Weber, Roth, Whitney and Aufrecht, the most important texts were made accessible in printed form. Adolf Kaegi remarks about this achievement of these great scholars "And this investigation opens to the historical sciences, in the broadest sense of the word, sources of unexpected wealth."

The enormous progress in knowledge of the *Veda* during all the years can well be appreciated if we compare the works of Roth and Benfey. The first complete edition of the text was that of Aufrecht, in two volumes printed in 1861 and 1863 in Latin transliteration. Bonn brought out a second edition of this in 1877, with valuable additions. He gave an index of first lines and quotations which are cited in other *Vedic* literature.

The text in *Sanskrit* characters was first printed by Max Muller in London in 1873. The first alphabetical index of first lines was given by W. Pertsch. Whitney gave a tabulated synopsis of the four *Samhitas*. H. Grassman wrote a valuable dictionary in 1875. Burnell and Barth also did much important work. Benfey edited *Ranayaniya Samhita*. Haug brought out an edition of *Maitrayani Samhita* in 1871.

Weber edited both the recensions of the *White Yajur Veda*, *Madhyandina* and *Kanva*. The last chapter of this *Samhita* is *Ishavasyopanishad* which was translated by Roer.

R. Roth and W. D. Whitney edited *Atharva Veda Samhita*. Khun closely studied this *Samhita*.

### The Vast Mass of Vedic Literature:

The *Vedas* are said to be infinite in number. What are available now are only selections. That is why we do not find any sequential relationship between one hymn and another. The *Rig Veda* has as many as twenty four recensions of which *Sakala Samhita* alone is extant. This *Samhita* consists of 1028 hymns which contain a total number of 10,600 *mantras*. The shortest hymn consists of a single *mantra* and the longest fifty-eight. This *Samhita* text itself would fill an octavo volume of about 600 pages of thirty lines each. The *Rig Veda* alone is equivalent to the caating poems of Homer. With respect to the number, length and



translating Rig-veda Mantra 10-106-5 and 10 and by Max Muller while translating Rig-veda Mantra 1-64-14 (vide respective translations of the mantras in the text).

The following remarks, made with respect to *Vedic* philosophy, by eminent scholars—both foreign and Indian—are gratifying to note.

Max Muller says in his work, *Six Systems of Indian Philosophy*: "Whatever is the age when the collections of our *Rigveda Samhita* were finished, it was before that age that the conviction had been formed that there is but One, One being neither male nor female, a being raised high above all conditions and limitations of personality. In fact, the *Vedic* poets have arrived at a conception of the Godhead, which, even at present, is beyond the reach of many who call themselves Christians" <sup>10</sup> p 1-2

Max Muller in his *Cambridge University Lectures* says: "There is, in fact, an unbroken continuity between the most modern and the most ancient phases of Indian thought, extending over more than three thousand years"

The same writer remarks elsewhere "In so far as we are Aryans in speech, that is, in thought, so far the *Rigveda* is our oldest book."

Arnold Toynbee in his book, *One World and India* points out with his characteristic insight. "Western civilization did recognise and practise the Virtue of contemplation to some extent in the Middle Ages. Since then, we have almost entirely lost this spiritual art, and our loss is serious, because the art of contemplation is really another name for the art of living. So now, we turn to India. This spiritual gift that makes man human, is still alive in Indian souls. Go on giving the World Indian examples of it. Nothing else can do so much to help mankind to save itself from self-destruction."

Deussen in his book, *The Philosophy of the Upanishads* says "The entire history of mankind does not produce much that approaches in grandeur to this thought."

Dr. R. J. Krishnan observes with reference to the Supreme Reality glorified in the *Vedas*: "This one is the Soul of all the worlds, the Reason immanent, in the universe, the Source of all Nature, Eternal Energy, perhaps, *Rita* substantiated, *Aditi* spiritualised, the One breathing breathless. It is the Supreme Reality which lives in all things and moves them all."

T. V. Kapali Sastri writes "But the true character of the Gods as it emerges from the hymns characterises our age with its account dictated by modern scholarship for which the *Brahmanical* ritualism elucidated by Sayana, is to some extent responsible. For the gross and physical aspect of the *Vedic* worship, though applicable in certain hymns, does not apply in many, does not at all hold good throughout, but fades away as we proceed from hymn to hymn of age after age in all the ten books of the *Samhita*. There are whole

hymns which in the exoteric sense do not make any sense at all. The ritualistic meaning cannot be maintained throughout. And in order to achieve the impossible, impossible constructions are invented and with laborious effort we arrive at a result which leaves us wondering at the grotesque mentality of the *Vedic* bards, or in such places the meanings of the hymns are empty of any worthy idea or presentation of truth, a thought-content commensurate with the repute of knowledge associated with the *Veda*. The Herculean effort made to dive deep into the water bears fruit in discovering the potsherd. The necessity of the symbolical interpretation arises from the unsatisfactory results of the labours of modern scholarship with the help of Sayana's ritualistic commentary. For apart from the poverty of thought and incoherence in the language of the sages assumed without warrant for the purpose of arriving at some sort of a cogent idea conveyed by the hymns, the learning does not take into account the ages-old tradition that the *Vedas* are the original source of spiritual wisdom and Divine Knowledge.

When we seize the clues afforded by the deliberate symbolism devised by the *Vedic* seers in the hymns, we get admitted into the secrets of the *Vedic* Godhead, to the true character of the Gods, as seen and understood by the *Rishis* of the *Rigveda*. Let us then seek for the truth in the original texts themselves and hear what the *Rishis* speak of the Gods and leave aside for the time being what others say about the *Rishis* or the Gods, what the moderns think the Gods must have been to the primitive poets of the *Vedic* age."

### Vedāṅgas

Besides this *Vedic* literature, there is a vast *Vedāṅga* literature, which is divided into Six heads, namely

1) Śikṣā	Pronunciation
2) Vyākaraṇa	Grammar
3) Chandas	Metre
4) Nirukta	Etymology
5) Kalpa	Ritual
6) Jyotiṣa	Astronomy

All of them are ancillary to the *Vedas*.

The first four are chiefly concerned with the reading, reciting and understanding of the sacred Texts, the last two principally with sacrifices and their seasons. It is said that from the study of Homer Greek Grammar arose, in like manner from the study of the *Veda* sprang up Sanskrit Grammar, but the advanced studies of the Indians, favoured by the constitution of their language, were incomparably deeper and more lasting than those of the Greek grammarians. First among the existent grammatical writings is *Nirukta*, a collection of

strange or obscure words of the Veda, together with the interpretations of the Vedic scholar, Yaska

Then come the Pratisakhya, each of which contains, for the various recensions of a single Veda, the most precise statements of phonetic changes, pronunciations, accentuation, metre, etc Here we have a number of observations in phonetics, so important that the science of our own day has just begun to appreciate Of these some have been edited The Rig Pratisakhya of शौनक was edited and translated into German by Max Muller in 1869 Regnier had already brought out a French Translation of the same in Paris in 1857-1858 Whitney published an English translation of the तैत्तिरीय प्रातिशाख्य in 1871

A. Weber has given the edition of a German translation of the वाजसनेयी प्रातिशाख्य by Katyayana The अथर्वप्रातिशाख्य was edited with an English translation by Whitney

The sound modulations in the chanting of Vedic Mantras are most meticulously exhibited in the traditional recitations by Brahmans well-versed in them While Udatā and Prachya are unmarked, Swarita and Anudatta are indicated by a vertical stroke and a horizontal line respectively The Vedic metres form fine musical patterns in which variations of sound and rhythm produce the impression of high-strung poetic eloquence

Max Muller remarks in this connection "I believe I shall not be contradicted by Helmholtz or Ellis, or other representatives of Phonetic science if I say that, to the present day, the phonetics of India of the fifth century B.C. are unsurpassed in their analysis of the elements of language The science of Grammar plays a very important part in helping us to understand the meaning of the Vedas Of the older works on this science little has remained for the simple reason, that a later work by पाणिनि marked by clearness, conciseness and comprehensiveness has surpassed all earlier ones and made them superfluous." Benfey says "In them is presented the scientific treatment of a single tongue in a perfection which arouses the wonder and admiration of all those who are more thoroughly acquainted with it, which even now stands not only unsurpassed, but not even attained, and which in many respects may be looked upon as the model for similar work In this presentation of the Sanskrit the method of the Indian grammarians was displayed, and it found so much the more speedy acceptance since it is nearly allied to the tendency which since the beginning of this century has made itself felt with ever-increasing power in other sciences. This is the method applied to the natural sciences, the method which seeks to gain knowledge of a subject from itself, by analysis into its elements. It views language as a natural phenomenon, the character of which it strives to determine by analysis into its component parts and investigation of their functions; by this

method and its wonderful results the linguistic labours of the Indians have pre-eminently,—indeed almost alone,—made it possible for modern philology to take up its problem and work it out to its end with the success which is universally conceded to it "

Chandas, (prosody, the science of metre) was very finely developed

ज्यातिषु (astronomy) made marvellous progress. On this Ebenezer Burgess says "I should be disposed to conclude that the Indians were in this instance teachers rather than learners." The शुल्बसूत्रs constitute the last part of the Kalpa system, which contains the geometrical specifications for the proper setting up of the altars. In these oldest mathematical treatises may already be found, according to Thibaut, even attempts at squaring the circle

I should not forget to mention the अनुक्रमणीs in this connection. They are the tables of contents which give in order, the deity, the composer and the metre of the individual hymns in the Samhita, the contents of the अनुक्रमणीs of कात्यायन are most useful for the study of the Rigveda. An extensive अनुक्रमणी is the बृहदेवता of शौनक intended to assign the deities to their hymns, with strict regard to the order of ऋक्संहिता but at the same time giving an extraordinarily rich store of legends

A चरणव्यूह is a work which mentions the schools belonging to each of the four Vedas

### Miscellaneous Observations :

Here below are reproduced translations of some parts of Vedic literature by some scholars

ADOLF KÆGE, in his book 'Rigveda'

#### Divine Omniscience.

It is admissible to insert here a fragment of the Atharvaveda, which gives expression to the divine omniscience more forcibly than any other hymn of the Vedic literature

"As guardian, the Lord of worlds  
Sees all things as if near at hand,  
'In secret which is thought is in  
That to the gods is all displayed.

Whoever moves or stands, who glides in secret,  
Who seeks a hiding place, or hastens from it,  
What thing two men may plan in secret council,  
A third, King Varuna, perceives it also

And all this earth King Varuna possesses,  
 His the remotest ends of yon broad heaven,  
 And both the seas in Varuna be hidden,  
 But yet the smallest water-drop contains him.

Although I climbed the furthest heaven, fleeing,  
 I should not there escape the monarch's power.  
 From heaven his spits descending hasten hither,  
 With all their thousand eyes the world surveying

Whate'er exists between the earth and heaven,  
 Or both beyond, to Varuna lies open "

### *The Vedic Vikṛans'*

"It is a peculiarity of the Sanskrit that adjoining words in a sentence are united with each other according to certain laws, by which their initial and final portions are subjected to various changes through assimilation, elision, etc., which naturally cause difficulties in understanding, these it was sought to obviate by fixing the text, not only in the ordinary connected form (*Sanhita-patha*), but also ✓ in an unconnected (*Pada-patha, word-text*), which gave the separate words as each originally appeared, independently, thus we have presented to us in the *Pada-patha* one of the first exegetical works. But soon the two *padhas* named appeared no longer sufficient, new ones were made, in part very complicated, in order ✓ to make every alteration of the sacred text absolutely impossible. Three of these forms of the text may be mentioned

The *Kramapatha* ('step-text') puts each word of the *Padapatha* twice first, in connection with the preceding words, next, with the succeeding, so that the order a b c d gives the *Krama* members ab, bc, cd, the *Krama* is treated by the *Upalekha*

The *Jatapatha* (the woven text) exhibits each *Krama* member three times, the second time in reversed order ab, ba, ab/bc, cb, bc/cd, dc, cd/, the *Jata* is treated in the *Jatapatha*

The *Ghanapatha* shows the order ab ba abc cba abc/bc cb bcd. dc bcd/

Senseless as such endless repetitions are in themselves, they still have this value for us, that they fix absolutely the wording of the text, and in that, indeed, their ✓ purpose is accomplished "

### *Parjanya (Rain)*

"Swiftly *Parjanya* collects his clouds for rain, the winds rush, the light-

ings fall stroke on stroke, with which the mighty one smites the blasphemer and terrifies even the pure, the heaven strains and swells, then at once the floods rush down,

“And every creature then receives the quickening dædaught,  
When o’er the land Parjanya’s grateful stream descends  
The thirsty fields he covered with the waters  
Of plenteous falling rains, but ’tis enough now  
He caused the herbs to spring for our refreshment,  
And what his people sought of him has granted”

*Indra (Thunder and Lightning)*

“Indra is thus at once a terrible warrior and a gracious friend, a god whose shafts deal destruction to his enemies, while they bring deliverance and prosperity to his worshippers. The phenomena of thunder and lightning almost inevitably suggest the idea of a conflict between opposing forces, even we ourselves, in our more prosaic age, often speak of the war or strife of the elements. The other appearances of the sky, too, would afford abundant materials for poetical imagery. The worshipper would at one time transform the fantastic shapes of the clouds into the chariots and horses of his god, and at another time would seem to perceive in their piled-up masses the cities and castles which he was advancing to overthrow.”

Max Müller on Dawn

Max Müller, who traced a very large number of myths to the Dawn says: “The dawn, which to us is merely a beautiful sight, was, to the early gazer and thinker, the problem of all problems. It was the unknown land from whence rose every day those bright emblems of a divine power which left in the mind of man the first impression and intimation of another world, of power above, of order and wisdom. What we simply call the sun-rise, brought before their eyes every day the riddle of all riddles, the riddle of existence. The days of their life sprang from that dark abyss, which every morning seemed instinct with light and life. Their youth, their manhood, their old age, all were to the Vedic bards the gift of that heavenly mother who appeared bright, young, unchanged, immortal, every morning, while everything else seemed to grow old, to change, and droop, and at last to set, never to return. It was there, in that bright chamber, that, as their poets said, mornings and days were spun, or, under a different image, where mornings and days were nourished, where life or time was drawn out. It was there that the mortal wished to go, to meet Mitra and Varuna. The whole theogony and philosophy of the ancient world centred in the Dawn, the mother of the bright gods, of the sun in his various aspects,

of the morn, the day, the spring, herself the brilliant image and visage of immortality."

*Whitney on Soma*

With regard to Soma, Whitney remarks

"The simple-minded Aryan people, whose whole religion was a worship of the wonderful powers and phenomena of nature, had no sooner perceived that this liquid had power to elevate the spirits and produce a temporary frenzy, under the influence of which the individual was prompted to, and capable of, deeds beyond his natural powers, than they found in it something divine; it was to their apprehension a god, endowing those into whom it entered with godlike powers, the plant which afforded it became to them the king of plants.

Soma is addressed in the highest strains of adulation and veneration, all powers belong to him, all blessings are besought of him, as his to bestow, etc." Still he admits "in many passages it can, of course, not be determined whether the word *soma* is to be taken as an appellative or as a proper name."

### **Monotheism—Philosophy of Rig-Veda**

**Extract from Introduction to "Rig-Veda Samhita" by Manmatha Nath Dutt (Shastri). M.A., M.R.A.S., Rector, Keshub Academy**

.. Yaska further asserts that "all the Deities are but parts of one atman, or soul, subservient to the diversification of his praises through the immensity and variety of his attributes" The *Anukramanika* goes further, and affirms that there is but *One Deity, the Great Soul*, quoting in support of this doctrine, a passage which applies only to the Sun, who is there called "the Soul of all that moves or is immovable"

Thus we see that in invoking the different phenomena of nature, the Vedic Aryans had evidently in view the Supreme Energy underlying them all. It is not the rain or the lightning that is worshipped, but the Deity or the Divine Power that rules them, and this Divine Power is designated by the Vedic Rishis as Parjanya

The fire, that we see before us and which is so useful to the people, is not the Deity who is invoked by the Rishis — but the Divine Power which is designated by them as Agni, "who bursts forth from the wood when the fire is churned with a stick." It is thus clear that the Vedic Aryans did not merely worship the natural phenomena, but the Energy underlying them all, which they denominated by various names, such as, Surya, Agni, Indra, etc. To them either Indra only, or Agni, or Surya, or all of them, together with the other Powers of Nature, did not complete the conception of God. Nor was any of them regarded by them as the Supreme Ruler of the Universe, Omniscient and Omnipotent. They represented merely the various Energies of the All-Powerful Providence manifested to humanity through diverse natural phenomena

The following observations, made by that eminent and erudite scholar Professor H.H. Wilson will give a sufficient idea to the reader

"It has been a favourite notion with some eminent scholars that the Hindus, at the period of the composition of the hymns, were a nomadic and pastoral people. This opinion seems to rest solely upon the frequent solicitations for food, and for horses and cattle which are found in the hymns, and is unsupported by any more positive statements. That the Hindus were not Nomads, is evident from the repeated allusions to fixed dwellings, and villages, and towns,



and we can scarcely suppose them to have been in this respect behind their barbarian enemies, the overthrow of whose numerous cities is so often spoken of. A pastoral people they might have been to some extent, but they were, also, and, perhaps, in a still greater degree, an agricultural people, as is evidenced by their supplications for abundant rain and for the fertility of the earth, and by the mention of agricultural products, particularly barley. They were a manufacturing people, for the art of weaving, the labours of the carpenter, and the fabrication of golden and of iron nail, are alluded to, and, what is more remarkable, they were a minting and mercantile people."

The philosophy of the Rig-Veda is monotheistic. The Vedic hymns rule out polytheism. One and the same Supreme Animating Principle is conceived by the sages in different forms and with different names.

The Rig-Vedic mantra 10-114-5 fully endorses this view

सुपर्ण विप्रोः कवयो वचो भिरिकंसन्तं बहुधा कल्पयन्ति

Wise seers meditate on one Supreme God who is all Knowledge, as having infinite names and forms. The Rig Vedic mantra 10-8-23 also subscribes to this view

यो नः पिता जनिता यो विधाता धामानि वेद भुवनानि विश्वा  
यो देवानां नामधा एक एव तं संप्रश्नं भुवना यन्त्यन्या

"Father and Protector of us all, He metes out rewards and punishments. All worlds are to Him an open book, and He knows every station and place (i.e. those to be assigned to each Jeeva). He alone can rightfully question our ways and behaviour. In Him no wonder all beings seek refuge." The Rig Vedic bards declare at the top of their voice that there is one and only one God who has created this universe Heaven and Earth.

याता भूमी जनयन् देव एकः

10-81-3

There are some critics who hold that the seers of the Tenth Mandala are more mystic and philosophical than the seers of the Mantras of the previous Mandala. But several highly mystic Mantras of even the first Mandala militate against this theory. For instance, the Rig Vedic Mantra 1-164-39

ऋचो अर्धोः परमे ध्योमिन् यस्मिन् देवा अपि विधे निपेदुः  
यान्न वेद किमुचा कसिप्यति य इवादिदुस्त इमे समासेत

says: The Supreme Being, imperishable and all pervasive, in whom reside all the gods, and to whom they are entirely subject, is the central theme of Rig-Veda. For the man who knows not Him what use is the Rigveda? Those alone attain true Happiness who know Him.

The Rig Vedic mantra, 1-164-46, namely.

इन्द्रं भित्रं वरुणमग्निमाहु रयो दिव्यः स सुपर्णो गरुत्मान्  
एकं सद्विप्रा बहुधा वदन्त्यग्निं यमं मातरिश्वानमाहुः

"Seers call that one Supreme Reality, our Sovereign Guide, by various names — such as, Indra, Mitra, Varuna, Agni, Garutman the Heavenly bird of beautiful plumage, Yama and Matariswan," also confirms the same point of view most unequivocally

It is easy to prove that the other three Vedas enshrine the same philosophy. There is no place, not even the least, for polytheism in the Upanishads, even according to the plain admission of Western savants

The Ramayana, the Mahabharata, Harivamsha, Bhagavata and other Puranas emphasise the monotheistic philosophy in season and out of season. The Gita, "वेदेषु सर्वैरहमेव वेद्यः" stresses, beyond a shadow of doubt, the same philosophy that परमात्मा Krishna alone is glorified by all the Vedas. It is just a literal interpretation of the कठोपनिषत्, "सर्ववेदा यत्पदमामनन्ति." Sri Sankara explains this in his Gita Bhasya thus, "वेदेषु सर्वैरहमेव परमात्मा वेदितव्यः." Sri Anand Giri, the reputed commentator on Sri Sankara, adds "सर्ववेद्य परब्रह्म भगवतोऽन्यदिति शङ्का जारयति-वेदेरिति" The latter holds along with his master that परब्रह्म alone is the thesis of all the Vedas and that he is identical with Lord Krishna.

Sri Ramanuja's commentary on the particular part of this verse runs as follows:

"वेदेषु सर्वैरहमेव वेद्यः, अतोऽग्निसूर्यवायुसोमेन्द्रादीनां भवन्तर्पामि-कत्वेन मवात्मकत्वात् तत्प्रतिपादनपरंरपि सर्ववेदेषुहमेव वेद्यः,  
देयमनुष्यादिशब्दजीवात्मेव । . . . . इतोऽन्यथा यो वेदायं वृत्ते  
न स वेद विदित्यभिप्रायः"

Vedanta Desika further adds in his commentary तात्पर्यचन्द्रिका on this भाष्यः "नारायण महोत्तमं वचसा वाच्यमुत्तमम् इत्युक्त प्रधानवेद्योऽहमेवेत्यर्थः"

Sri Madhwa has written an independent भाष्य on the ऋग्वेद. Where he has proved quite clearly that one Supreme God is hymned throughout all the Vedas under the guise of multifarious names and forms. This idea luminous runs transparently through all the hymns of the Rig Veda. He refers to Mahopani-  
shad as an authority on this point.

"स एवाहित वेदायः सर्वसास्त्रार्थेष्वव

■ एव सर्वशब्दार्थ इत्याहोपनिषत् परा”

He also quotes to substantiate this point.

“सर्वच्छन्दोभिधोहोय सर्वदेवाभिधोप्यसौ  
सर्वलोकाभिधोप्येष तेषां तदुपचारतः”

Sri Madhwa in his *Āraṇyaka* has made out the point that the Vedic seers were monotheists one and all, by giving cross references to the Rig-Veda itself. Sri Jayatirtha in his luminous commentary on this *Āraṇyaka* sets forth a long, concatenated chain of reasons to elucidate this point thus “Because the Supreme Person happens to be the meaning of ओम् He is denoted by the three व्याहृतिः, since व्याहृतिः are the explanatory words of the three constituents of ओम्, because व्याहृतिः express Him, He is equally conveyed by the गायत्री too, as He is the subject matter of गायत्री. He is the central thesis of पुरुषसूक्त also, since पुरुषसूक्त enshrines Him, all the Vedas envisage Him throughout. He says “यतो वायव्यं यस्तास्मात्स हरिरेव पौरुषसूक्ते ईरितः प्रतिपादितः। वायव्यं यस्तास्य। यतः पुरुषसूक्तिको भगवान् तस्मात्स एवायखिल वेदार्थः। पुरुषसूक्त्यस्तास्यैव वेदार्थस्त्वस्य एव सर्वशास्त्रार्थश्च। स्मृतीनां भूति मूलत्वात्। ततश्च स एव सर्वशब्दार्थः”.

Sri Raghavendra Swami in his *मन्त्रार्थमञ्जरी* writes

“अनुक्रमणिकायामपि एकैव महानात्मा देवता इति  
सर्वसूक्तानां परमात्मा देवताकत्वस्य उक्तत्वाच्च.”

Sri Madhwa and his followers identify themselves with *Harivamsha* which unmistakably declares

“वेदे रामायणे चैव पुराणे भारते तथा  
आदावन्ते च मध्ये च विष्णु सर्वत्र गोयते”

Sri Numbarka quotes *महाभारत* in his *गीताभाष्य* :—

“एतमेके यदन्तर्बहिः सत्तोऽन्ये प्रजापतिम्  
इन्द्रमेके परे प्राणमपरे ब्रह्मशाश्वतम्  
वासुदेवपरा वेदाः वासुदेवपरा मुखाः”

Sri Vallabha in his *अनुभाष्य* on “शास्त्रयोनित्वात्” interprets शास्त्र as वेद and says that वेद in general is the source of knowledge about ब्रह्मन्. He writes in his *गीताभाष्य* called तत्त्वदीपिका :

“यतो वेदश्च सर्वरहमेव सर्वात्मना वेद्यः।

ब्रह्मवादेऽग्निमीमं ब्रह्मवादिनां मन्त्रार्थमिक्त्वेन  
मन्त्रत्वात् तत्प्रतिपादनपरोऽपि वेदो मामेवाह सर्वम्।”

Sri Purushottama in his *अमृततरङ्गिणी* writes

“सर्वः शास्त्रद्वयार्थः वेदरहमेव वेद्यः श्रेयः।”

नोत्पद्यते in his *भारतभाष्यदीप* observes “तथाच सर्वः वेदः ब्रह्मार्थस्तज्ज्ञान-  
ब्रह्मार्थः ब्रह्मेव परमात्मा वेद्यः श्रेयः।”

Sri Madhusudana Saraswati says in his *गुडार्थदीपिका*:

“वेदश्च सर्वरिन्द्रादिदेवता प्रकाशार्थं ब्रह्मेव वेद्यः।”

Sri Sankarananda writes in his commentary तात्पर्य बोधिनीः

“सर्ववेदा यत्पदमामनन्ति इतिन्यायेन सर्वैर्देवादिभिः  
वेदान्तैर्वेद्यः ।”

Sri Sridharaswami in his सुबोधिनी observes

“वेदेऽथ सर्वस्तत्तदवताररूपेण ब्रह्मेव वेद्यः ।”

Sri Sadananda remarks

“वेदेः सर्वैरपि इन्द्रादिदेवता भासकैरपि ब्रह्मेव  
अखिलात्मकत्वात् वेद्यः सर्वेश्वरेश्वरः ।”

Sri Dhanapati in his भाष्योत्कर्ष बोधिका writes

“अतः कारणात् सर्वैर्वैदः कर्मकाण्डादिलक्षणः  
प्रकारात् स्मृतीतिहास पुराणाविभिन्न ब्रह्मेव  
परमात्मा सर्वरूपो वेद्यः ।”

Sri Daivajna Pandit in his परमार्थप्रपा writes

“सर्ववेदेः सहितस्राह्यभारभ्यकर्णरहमेव अतद्व्यावृत्त्या  
ज्ञातव्यो ऽस्मि एवकारेण भूद देवता व्युदासः

Sri Raghavendra Swami in his विवृति says

“अहमेव परममुद्रवृत्त्या सर्वैश्च वेदवेद्यः”

Sri Sankara is in his सूत्रभाष्य on शास्त्रयोनित्यात् writes -

“अथवा यथोक्तमृगवेदादि शास्त्र योनिः कारण प्रमाणमस्य ब्रह्मणो  
यथावत्स्वरूपाधिगमे ।

Sri Ramanuja in his वेदार्थसंग्रह says वेदिका. शब्दाः

सर्वे परमात्म पर्यन्तान् स्वार्थान् बोधयन्ति । एवमेव परमात्मनः

सर्वं शरीरत्वेन सर्वसन्दर्भाभ्यारम्भम् । परमात्मनि मुख्यतया वर्तन्ते सर्वे तद्वाचकाः ।  
शब्दाः”

Even Sayana who wanted to establish the vast system and procedure of कर्मकाण्ड on a firm basis and who has put ritualistic interpretation on the majority of the Mantras has shown several times how the Mantras can bear the mystic and spiritual meanings also Hundreds of Mantras are given mystic interpretation too He says in his commentary

“सर्ववेदः परं ब्रह्म अग्रगम्यते ।”

‘उक्तलक्षणे यस्तु नि ऋगुपलक्षिताः सर्वे सादृशा वेदाः पर्यवसिता इत्यर्थः ।’

‘य. योमत्यः तत् तादृश देवादौनां स्वरूपज्ञाभासपद मृत्स्न वेदतात्पर्यं प्रतिपाद्य  
यदस्तु न वेद न जानाति सः मर्त्यः अथा पूर्वोक्तेन ऋगादिसन्दर्भात्तेन किं करिष्यति  
येनसाधनेन वेदेन वेदमविदित्वा किं साधयतीत्यर्थः । प्रयोजनभावात्सर्वसंस्थापि  
वेदस्य नैष्कल्यादिति भावः ।’

So it is far from correct to say that Shri Sayana was not aware that the Rig Vedic Mantras were capable of being interpreted mystically and spiritually For some reasons best known to himself, he addressed himself to his main task of putting liturgical interpretation on the majority of the Mantras.

Max Muller says in his work “Six Systems of Indian Philosophy” “What-

ever is the age when the collections of *Rig-Veda Samhita* were finished, it was before that age that the conviction had been formed that there is but One, One being neither male nor female, a being raised high above all conditions and limitations of personality. In fact, the *Vedic* poets have arrived at a conception of the Godhead, which even at present, is beyond the reach of many who call themselves Christians."

## Deep Spiritual meaning of Vedic Hymns.

As has already been explained in the "Introduction", the Vedic hymns embody threefold meaning. For illustration, the deep spiritual meaning contained in Rig-Veda Mantra IV-58-3, the apparent meaning of which is given at the appropriate place in this book, is as follows:

चत्वारि शृङ्गा त्रयो<sup>१</sup> अस्य पादा द्वे शीर्षे सप्तहस्तांसो अस्य ।  
त्रिषो बद्धो वृषभो रो<sup>२</sup> खीति मद्भो देवो मर्त्या<sup>३</sup> आविवेश ॥

The four horns referred to here are the four Vedas the three feet are the mind, the intellect and the sense-group, the two heads are the two ways of thinking, the seven hands are the five sensible objects, the mundane pleasure which we derive from them and the supramundane happiness arising from the right knowledge of God, the supreme reality. शृङ्ग is a mark that leads to the knowledge of something that possesses the mark. The four Vedas are called the शृङ्गा of God in so far as they lead to the knowledge of God. Man stands firm by means of his feet. God firmly stays in us if we try to settle Him in the mind, intellect and the heart. The idea of Godhead remains unshaken if it is propped up by all the three, mind, head and heart—together 'He has two heads' would mean 'He has two ways of thinking'—two frames of mind. He is most benign towards the good and ruthless towards the wicked.

By means of hands we are able to catch things and confine animals within certain places. Paramatma, by means of five sensible objects the mundane pleasures and supramundane happiness, takes us captive. Such God transcendent as He is, allows Himself to be captured by कर्म, ज्ञान, and भक्ति i.e. right action, right knowledge, and right devotion. By virtue of the three great yogas God so vividly installs Himself in the heart of human beings that it appears that He loudly proclaims his presence to us.

The following extracts from Max Müller's famous book India What can it teach us? which reveal to any one the richness of India's natural resources and the choicest gifts of head and heart of its people would constitute a fitting conclusion to this treatise.

"If I were to look over the whole world to find out the country most richly endowed with all the wealth, power, and beauty that nature can bestow—in some parts a very paradise on earth—I should point to India. If I were asked

under what sky the human mind has most fully developed some of its choicest gifts, has most deeply pondered on the greatest problems of life, and has found solutions of some of them which well deserve the attention of even of those who have studied Plato and Kant—I should point to India. And if I were to ask myself from what literature we, here in Europe, we, who have been nurtured almost exclusively on the thoughts of Greeks and Romans, and of one Semitic race, the Jewish, may draw that corrective which is most wanted in order to make our inner life more perfect, more comprehensive, more universal, in fact more truly human, a life, not for this life only, but a transfigured and eternal life—again I should point to India”

“If you think that I exaggerate, let me read you in conclusion what one of the greatest philosophical critics and certainly not a man given to admiring the thoughts of others—says of the Vedanta, and more particularly of the Upanishads. Schopenhauer writes

“In the whole world there is no study so beneficial and so elevating as that of the Upanishads. It has been the solace of my life—it will be the solace of my death.”

“I feel convinced that, placed as we are here in this life, we have lessons to learn from the Veda, quite as important as the lessons we learn at school from Homer and Virgil, and lessons from the Vedant quite as instructive as the systems of Plato or Spinoza”

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